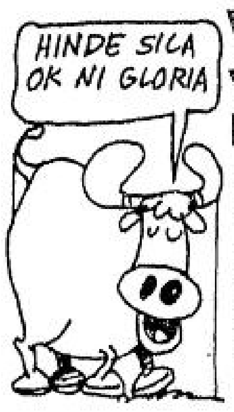
Graft charges a smear job, says censors chief

STORY ON PAGE A2


HINDE SICA OK NI GLORIA

What's veep's beef?

By J. Javellana and D. Pazzibugan

WHAT is Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr. up to? Batanes Rep. Florencio "Butch"

WHAT'S/A6

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WHAT'S INSIDE

- Canada freezes RP Reds' assets
  NEWS / A3
- Shell hikes prices, too
  NEWS / A3
- Argentina 5 ends American Dream
  SPORTS / A22

Piatco to gov't: Lay off

Stockholders say they will resolve own problems

By Norman Bordadora and Carlito Pablo

FOR THE FIRST time since the government's proposed takeover of the controversial Naia Terminal 3 became public, the German, Japanese and Filipino stockholders of Naia 3 concessionaire Philippine International Air Terminals Co. (Piatco) met on Wednesday.

Piatco vice president Moises Tolentino yesterday said the stockholders agreed to solve the troubled project's problems among themselves.

"We are appealing to the government to lay off Piatco and its contract to build Terminal 3 and give our stakeholders a chance to solve the company's corporate issues on their own," Tolentino said in a press statement.

But there was no direct comment from the Fraport AG representatives, who own 30 percent of Piatco but want out of the project. Instead, the office of Secretary Gloria Tan Climaco, presidential adviser negotiating with the Germans, released a statement saying Fraport was willing to be bought out for $300 million.

Jeffrey Cheng, a member of the Piatco board, said the consortium partners made progress in their discussions regarding the problems affecting the build-operate-transfer contract for Naia 3.

PIATCO/A21

ALL that glitters is gold in Diwalwal, Mt. Diwata, Monkayo, Compostela Valley. By night it is a picture of splendid serenity; by day, it is a gold-rush site with a two-decade history of violence. President Macapagal will declare Diwalwal a mineral reservation area this October. EDWIN BACASMAS

GMA first President to visit gold-rush country

By Anthony S. Allada
PDI Mindanao Bureau

DAVAO CITY—The first President to set foot on the gold-rich Diwalwal mining area in Mt. Diwata, Monkayo, Compostela Valley, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday afternoon received resounding applause with not a few well-wishers skipping lunch just to see her.

The very warm welcome for the President who was garbed—violet blouse, black pants and boots—for the rugged terrain was well-deserved as far as the more than 8,000 residents who met her were concerned.

Since 1983, illegal miners had operated in Diwalwal with the big miners lording over the gold rush area until the Department of Environment and Natural Resources last month declared the entire 729-hectare active mining area a mineral reservation.

Ms Macapagal is set to sign a presidential declaration on Mt. Diwalwal as a mineral reservation area on Oct.11.

Mt. Diwata barangay chair Francisco Tito said his constituents were "very glad" that they are now legal miners of the mountain.

"And this is because of her (the President)," he said.

Tito said the presence of the President showed her concern over their

GMA/A20

KL tells girl: Go back to Sabah, file rape raps

THE 13-YEAR-OLD Filipino girl allegedly raped by a policeman while in detention should return to Malaysia so she could lodge charges against him, an official of the Sabah state police yesterday said.

"We have started an investigation and we are making arrangements for the girl to come over so that she can make a formal complaint and we can interview her as well," Sabah state police chief Ramli Yusuff said after the Philippines ended a fact-finding mission amid accusations of death and rape in camps for illegal Filipino workers.

At a news conference in Kota Kinabalu, Ramli said his office was seeking assistance from the Philippine police in the investigation.

He said he viewed the allegations "very seriously as this involves an underaged girl and it is statutory rape even if the girl had consented." The offense carries a 14-year jail term in Malaysia, but is punishable by death in the Philippines.

The Philippine government, which has seen street protests, expressed outrage over allegations that a policeman at a camp in Sabah had sexually abused the girl.

President Macapagal-Arroyo wrote a stinging letter to Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad on Wednesday protesting the alleged rape, which Foreign Secretary Blas Ople said "may constitute an act of aggression against civilization itself."

Mahathir has pledged swift action.

"The Malaysian government and I personally view with serious concern the allegation made by a Filipino mi-

KL TELLS/A20

VAL HANDUMON

EIGHT years later, kidnap victim Agnes Guirindola gets justice, turns her back on her painful past and her kidnapper Venancio Roxas (at left) as she looks forward to getting on with her life.

2ND SUSPECT

La Salle student's kidnapper gets death

By Agnes E. Donato

THE SECOND suspect in the kidnapping and frustrated murder of De La Salle student Agnes Guirindola was ordered to die by lethal injection yesterday—seven and a half years after the first suspect was sentenced to death.

"I am relieved," Guirindola, now a businesswoman, said. She burst into tears after Quezon City Regional Trial Court Judge Demetrio Macapagal Sr. sentenced Venancio Roxas to death for kidnapping and serious illegal detention with frustrated murder charges.

The death sentence came on top of a prison term of at least 18 years for car theft and another prison term of at least two years for theft.

Justice Secretary Hernando Perez, who sat beside Guirindola during the promulgation, said Macapagal's decision was "a great victory for justice."

Roxas' cohort, Roberto Gungon, was sentenced to death by another Quezon City judge in February

LA SALLE/A6

RM awardee returns $50,000 prize money

By Blanche S. Rivera

THE LECTURER and social activist awarded by the Ramon Magsaysay Foundation for emergent leadership had wanted to use his $50,000 prize money "to fund the socialist movement" in his native India.

Sandeep Pandey had told the INQUIRER that he intended to deposit the money in a bank and use the interest to help socialist groups pursuing education and other welfare concerns for his poor countrymen.

But the Associated Press in New Delhi reported yesterday that Pandey had returned the cash prize to protest the US government's war on terrorism.

According to the AP report, Pandey said in a statement in New Delhi that he was not returning the award itself—seen by many as the Asian equivalent of the Nobel Prize—out of respect for the late Philippine President

RM/A20

More Filipinos want priests to marry, says SWS poll

PRIESTS taking mistresses appear to be more prevalent in the Visayas than in any other part of the country, according to a nationwide survey conducted by the Social Weather Stations.

One out of five respondents in the Visayas said priests with female partners do happen in their area.

But the survey found that an increasing number of Filipinos wanted priests to marry. One out of four Filipinos was agreeable to the idea, up from one out of five in 1996.

The survey, conducted from May 17 to June 3, 2002, covered 1,200 respondents. It has a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percent and a confidence level of 95 percent.

The Visayas also appears to have a higher incidence of men of the cloth sexually abusing young people compared with other regions. A total of 12.3 percent of the respondents said priests abusing the young in their area does happen. The percentage for Metro Manila is 8.3 percent; the rest of Luzon, 9.6 percent; and Mindanao, 11.3 percent.

SWS released the results of the survey amid reports that a priest sexually abused a female teenager.

Aladin Alisbo Jr., assistant parish priest in San Ildefonso, Tanay, was accused of molesting lay volunteer Janice Alfonso, 19, who brought the matter to the police. Alisbo, 35, is out on bail.

Should a priest molest a child, Catholics and non-Catholics agreed

MORE/A20

Doronila book on Erap fall wins second award

By Agnes E. Donato

FOR THE second time in less than a week, INQUIRER editorial consultant Amando Doronila won an award for his behind-the-scenes account of the Edsa II uprising, "The Fall of Joseph Estrada: The Inside Story."

One of the prizes in The National Book Awards, given annually by the

DORONILA'S/A21

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The whole country will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. Moderate winds blowing from the Southwest will prevail over Western Luzon and the coastal waters over these areas will be moderate.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/09/06/02

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Smear job, says censors' chief

By Marinel R. Cruz

MOVIE and Television Review and Classification Board chair Marilen Dinglasan yesterday branded as a smear campaign the accusations of irregularities hurled against her by employees of the MTRCB and vowed to continue the reforms she has initiated since her appointment.

"I will not be cowed by these charges. Instead, I will take them as a challenge to go on with my programs for these will vindicate me sooner or later," Dinglasan told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview.

Members of the ratings board and the MTRCB Employees Association Wednesday filed charges of "arbitrary, dubious and unnecessary disbursement of MTRCB funds for public information expenses" against their chief.

In an affidavit they submitted to the Office of the Ombudsman, the MTRCB employees described as "lavish" Dinglasan's disbursement of board funds, which included the purchase of 20 cell phone call cards, bottles of mineral water and a takeout container from a Japanese noodle house in Quezon City.

Dinglasan said there was nothing irregular about the disbursements. "They were all above board. They passed government agency rules and regulations and were duly signed by government accountants."

The complaints also charged Dinglasan with grave abuse of authority and usurpation of the functions of the board, threats, unauthorized use of a government vehicle, nepotism, the unnecessary hiring of a law firm as legal consultant, falsification and the arbitrary use of the confidential and intelligence funds of the MTRCB.

Dinglasan said she had yet to receive an official copy of the charges lodged against her by "unnamed MTRCB employees."

"It is quite puzzling that the INQUIRER and a TV network have their copies of the complaint and I don't," she said.

Dinglasan said the complaints were expected since she introduced changes in the board. The reforms, she said, are part of the policy of President Macapagal-Arroyo to instill discipline in government agencies and rid them of corruption.

Under MTRCB rules, members of the ratings board are to report for work a maximum of eight days a month to rate films for movie and television viewing. But she said some board members only went to work for a few hours, resulting in a backlog of 123 films in August.

"I had to be strict with them. Some board members complained of the long hours they had to be at the office, but at least now we have no more backlog," she said.

She said she also looked into the employees' punctuality and questioned their failure to wear their uniforms. "The agency allotted a uniform allowance for the employees but you would see some of them wearing casual clothes and walking around the office in slippers," she said.

She also adjusted the schedule of some employees, specifically those in the cashier department, and ordered some of them to work even at lunchtime.

"One reason why we (the MTRCB) lack funds is that we are not too strict with our collections. I want to change that attitude," Dinglasan said.

Under fire, judge goes to SC

By Michael Ubac

THE PASIG judge who incurred the ire of President Macapagal-Arroyo for allowing six Chinese nationals to post bail while facing nonbailable drug trafficking charges, yesterday sought refuge with the Supreme Court.

In an urgent motion for a restraining order, Judge Rodrigo B. Lorenzo, presiding judge of Pasig Regional Trial Court Branch 266, asked the high court to stop the Macapagal administration, through the Department of Justice, and the Office of the Ombudsman, from investigating him.

His defense: only the SC's Office Court of Administrator has the jurisdiction to investigate and sanction him.

"(They) have no jurisdiction to take cognizance of the charges," said Lorenzo who is facing an administrative investigation by the Department of Justice for knowingly rendering unjust judgment, grave misconduct, gross ignorance of the law of procedure and bias and partiality in favor of the (Chinese).

The charges were investigated motu propio by the DOJ after Lorenzo allowed Chu Chi, Huang Hongwei, Joey Lu, Xingfu Wong and Tomas Lu to post a P500,000 bail each for their temporary liberty on April 15.

Ms Macapagal ordered the probe as part of her drive to achieve a "strong republic" by cracking the whip not only on criminals but also on corrupt and erring magistrates.

But Lorenzo fought back and argued in his motion that the charges are administrative in nature "and are all within the exclusive jurisdiction of the Honorable Court under Article 8, Sections 1 and 6 of the Constitution."

He also claimed that the DOJ, through Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuno, had not furnished him with the copies of the complaints.

He said that this constituted denial of his right to due process.

Lorenzo allowed the six Chinese nabbed in a shabu factory in Pasig early this year to post bail even though they were charged with manufacturing and selling shabu (methamphetamine hydrochloride), a non-bailable offense.

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Canada freezes RP Reds' assets

By Norman Bordadora

FOLLOWING the lead of its superpower neighbor, Canada has included the Communist Party of the Philippines, together with its umbrella National Democratic Front and satellite New People's Army, on its list of foreign terrorist organizations.

Canadian Ambassador Robert Collette personally relayed the message to Secretary Blas Ople at the Department of Foreign Affairs yesterday.

In line with this, "the Canadian government ordered all financial institutions in the country to freeze any assets belonging to the CPP-NDF-NPA," said Ople, following the meeting with Collette.

The freeze order was issued by the Canadian government on Aug. 29. CPP founder Jose Ma. Sison, on self-exile in the Netherlands, was included on Canada's list of foreign terrorists.

"The freeze order also included a prohibition on fund-raising activities and the mobilization of support in behalf of any foreign terrorist organization in Canada," Ople said.

Canada is the fourth country to freeze CPP assets after the United States declared the Philippine communist party a foreign terrorist organization.

Great Britain and the Netherlands earlier issued their own freeze orders on CPP funds in their respective countries, following their recognition of the CPP as a terrorist organization.

Ople said that during their meeting, Collette also informed him that Canada has donated $1 million worth of medicines and medical equipment to six hospitals in Basilan and Sulu.

Ople said the Philippines is seeking a freeze on the global bank accounts and other assets of the CPP-NDF-NPA. *With Michael Lim Ubac and an AFP report*

Shell, 3 other oil firms hike prices, too

By R.W. Domingo

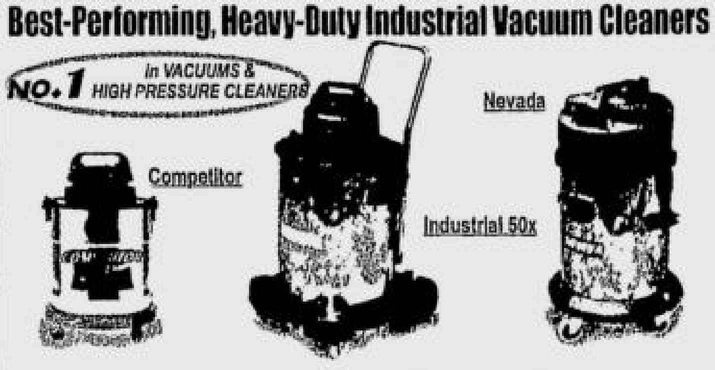
MILITANT groups yesterday warned of a bleak Christmas season as Pilipinas Shell Petroleum and three small oil firms jumped into the bandwagon of price increases, announcing an average increase of 39 centavos per liter.

Pilipinas Shell increased prices of gasoline, diesel and kerosene by 39 centavos a liter effective 2 p.m. yesterday.

Seaoil Petroleum hiked prices of diesel by 35 centavos, gasoline by 39 centavos and of kerosene by 49 centavos per liter yesterday at 6 p.m.

Flying V also said it raised prices of both diesel and gasoline by 35 centavos while Unioil Philippines said it would match today Seaoil's new rates for diesel and gasoline.

Renato Reyes Jr., spokesperson of the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan, said in a telephone interview the group was preparing for protest actions next week to condemn the price hikes.



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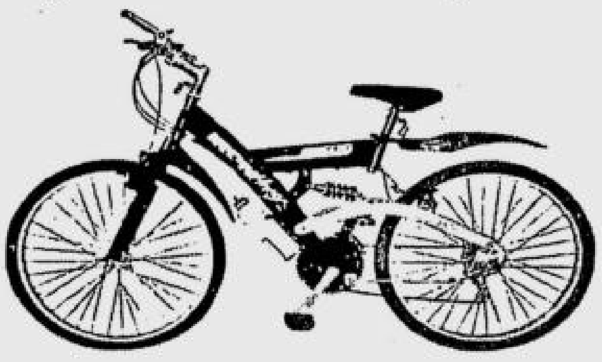

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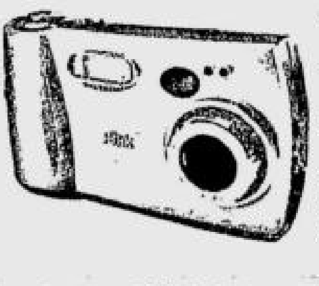

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Quit bellyaching, Defensor critics told

By Carlito Pablo and TJ Burgonio

"QUIT your bellyaching."

This in essence was Malacañang's response yesterday to objections raised in certain military quarters to the appointment of Lt. Gen. Benjamin Defensor Jr. as the next Armed Forces of the Philippines chief of staff.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said President Macapagal-Arroyo was well within her authority as AFP commander in chief to appoint Defensor, who was set to retire on Sept. 12.

The President has extended Defensor's term to Nov. 18, which means he will serve as AFP chief for only two months and six days beginning on Sept. 10, when current chief of staff Gen. Roy Cimatu retires.

"This is just sour grapes," Bunye said, of the criticism that Defensor's appointment smacked of politics, he being the younger brother of former senator Miriam Defensor Santiago.

Critics charged his appointment was a political accommodation meant to win over his sister, who is identified with deposed President Joseph Estrada.

"The President decided strictly on the merits," Bunye said. "We can all see that General Defensor is very well qualified."

He said the President's decision to appoint Defensor over five other three-star generals was "a tough one."

"Everyone was experienced and had the qualities to command the AFP ," he said. "With all things being equal, the President based her choice on seniority."

DEFENSOR

Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes appealed yesterday to supporters of the other candidates and the media to stop the "unproductive speculation" that Defensor's appointment was a political accommodation to his sister.

"The President held intensive consultations before making her decision. All the candidates were eminently qualified—you don't make lieutenant general if you don't have the right stuff," Reyes said during a press briefing.

He added: "The President has made a tough decision, so let's support her."

Ms Macapagal justified her decision by saying Defensor was the most senior of the candidates, who included Lt. Generals Gregorio Camiling, AFP vice chief of staff; Dionisio Santiago, Army chief; Narciso Abaya, AFP deputy chief of staff, and Ernesto Carolina of the Southern Command, and Navy Vice Admiral Victorino Hingco.

Grumbling in the military is common each time a new chief of staff is chosen, Reyes noted.

"If Defensor was not chosen, then people would have said: 'He was not picked because he is the brother of a member of the opposition.' What could be more apolitical than choosing the brother of an opposition member as your chief of staff?"

Solon poises more raps vs ex-BIR chief

By Christine O. Avendaño

A CONGRESSMAN said yesterday he may file yet another case against resigned Bureau of Internal Revenue chief Rene Bañez on top of the economic sabotage and plunder case he plans to file against the latter this month.

Southern Leyte Rep. Aniceto Saludo said he held a "final" meeting yesterday with his lawyers and advisers on the first case he would be filing against Bañez with the Office of the Ombudsman.

Saludo said he was supposed to have filed the case, which has the support of nine other congressmen, before the end of last month but his group has just completed gathering the evidence and documents "that would show Bañez violated the anti-graft and corrupt practices law."

Saludo accused Bañez of plunder and economic sabotage in a privileged speech last month for allegedly being partial to the Fort Bonifacio-Metro Pacific-Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. conglomerate which he had worked for in the past.

The BIR under Bañez allegedly used taxpayer money to pay the P1.8-billion documentary tax liability of the Fort Bonifacio Development Corp., a subsidiary of Metro Pacific Corp., where Bañez was once a senior vice president.

NEWSBRIEFS

Shoe protest improper

FOREIGN Secretary Blas Ople yesterday said that it would not be "prim and proper" for the Philippines to file a diplomatic protest against the US on account of a San Francisco airport screener's decision to ask Senate President Franklin Drilon to remove his shoes for inspection.

"It would not be prim and proper for the country to file a diplomatic protest on account of the incident at the San Francisco airport," Ople told reporters in a news conference.

Ople said that while Drilon deserved the courtesy befitting a top government official from an ally of the United States, the act of the airport screener should be seen in the context of the global campaign against terrorism.

Marijuana at Senate lounge

A TEABAG believed to be containing marijuana was found Wednesday night at the Senators' Lounge on the second floor of the Philippine Senate. The teabag, found neatly tucked between the pages of a telephone book, was found by a certain Choi Enriquez of the Senate's external department.

Enriquez told the Office of the Senate Sergeant-at-Arms (OSAA) that he was about to make a phone call when he discovered the teabag. According to him, he discovered the teabag when it fell on the floor as he leafed through the directory.

"We want to make sure that it is marijuana that is inside the bag. It might turn out to be ordinary herbal tea," said OSSAA chief ret. Maj. Gen. Jose Balajadia.

Spratlys alert

REPORTS that Vietnam has occupied an island in the Spratlys claimed by the Philippines are false, but Philippine troops have nevertheless been ordered to be more alert at their positions on the disputed chain, Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes said.

"All of the detachments in our Philippine-occupied islands should be on 24-hour contact every day and they should be reporting all untoward or unusual incidents," Reyes said. "So there is now close monitoring of the situation there."

Nuke medicine symposium

ELEVEN international experts on nuclear medicine are among the distinguished line-up of resource speakers in a three-day symposium on nuclear medicine which opened yesterday at the Philippine Heart Center in Quezon City.

Dr. Jerry M. Obaldo, president of the organizing Philippine Society of Nuclear Medicine, said the forum covers a broad range of topics covering the latest researches and findings on the application of nuclear medicine in the treatment of liver and thyroid cancer and Graves hypothyroidism.

Noted specialists in nuclear medicine from nine countries, including the Philippines, will speak.

Calling heroes' heirs

IN LINE with the 2002 History Week celebration on Sept. 15-21, the National Historical Institute (NHI) has invited all descendants of Filipino heroes (pre-colonial and colonial periods) including those of the Filipino-American War (1899-1913), to register with the NHI in preparation for the forthcoming assembly/reunion. The place and date of the reunion will be announced later.

Registration forms are available at the NHI-Historical Education Division (NHI-HED) from Sept. 9. to Oct. 30.

CPA exams reset

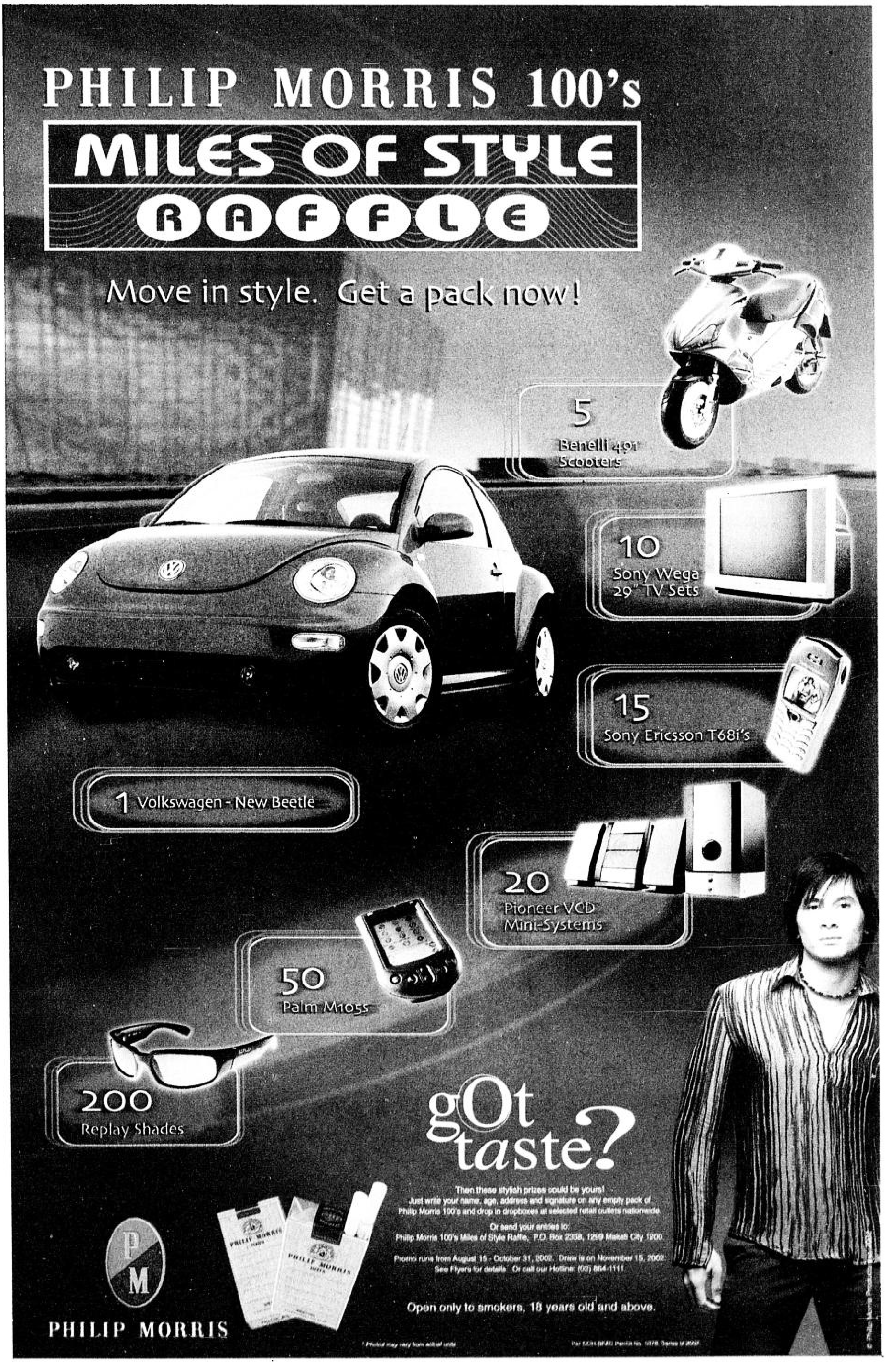
THE PROFESSIONAL Regulation Commission has reset the Certified Public Accountants (CPA) licensure examination from Oct. 5, 6, 12 and 13 in Manila, Baguio, Cagayan de Oro, Cebu, Davao, Iloilo and Legazpi to Oct. 12, 13, 19, and 20. The new deadline for filing applications is Sept. 23 at the PRC central and regional ffices.

Mastery in surgery

THE DEPARTMENT of Surgery of the College of Medicine-Philippine General Hospital, University of the Philippines Manila will hold its annual postgraduate course titled "Mastery in Surgery: Continuing Challenges in Surgery 2002." on Sept. 9-11.

The postgraduate course will offer interactive sessions, group discussions lectures and other innovative learning techniques to equip surgical practitioners and residents with a comprehensive and updated strategies to address common surgical conditions.

Activities will be held at the Manila Midtown Hotel along Pedro Gil St., Malate, Manila. Participants in the course will be given 100 PMA-CME units and 35 PCS-CSE units.



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What's veep's beef?

From page A1

Abad is wondering.

Abad yesterday said it was "strange" for Guingona to join a protest rally Wednesday at the doorsteps of his fellow government official, in this case Trade Secretary Mar Roxas.

"Are the channels for discussing problems already beyond the Vice President's reach? I don't think so," said the president of the Liberal Party, which belongs to the People Power Coalition together with the Lakas, Aksyon Demokratiko and Promdi parties.

Abad, who, like Guingona, has been critical of certain administration policies, said the Vice President's action "does not look good for him" considering that he was anointed by the ruling coalition and President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"A Cabinet member is the alter ego of the President, so it's like bringing your protest to the President herself," the lawmaker said. "So why is he doing that? Is he trying to precipitate something?"

Malacañang, however, thinks it's no sweat.

According to Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye, Guingona is no longer in the Cabinet and is therefore free to differ with the President.

Bunye said Guingona's broadsides against official policies were to be expected since he resigned as foreign secretary last July because of "honest policy differences" with Ms Macapagal.

The Vice President joined the rally at the Department of Trade and Industry on Wednesday to condemn planned tariff rates. Before that, he criticized the administration's cautious approach to the expulsion of thousands of Filipinos from Sabah.

"Now that he's no longer a member of the Cabinet, he can express his sentiments," Bunye said.

Asked if this further widened the gap between the country's two highest officials, Bunye said: "He's expressing his opinion. He's not a member of the Cabinet so we don't see any conflict."

Adding pressure

"Vice President Guingona has always said his actions are based on an honest divergence of opinion," Bunye added.

Guingona joined the protest rally in front of the DTI offices to add pressure to the government not to accede to an Asean plan to impose a 5-percent tariff rate on regional trading.

He said this plan would affect local enterprises and jobs.

But Guingona has some explaining to do for his action, which shows that "all is not well between him and the government," Abad said.

The lawmaker said the critical stance of Guingona—as well as of resigned Education Secretary Raul Roco, chair of Aksyon Demokratiko—could be viewed as an attempt to "dissociate the coalition from the government."

This will not happen, he said, because members of the coalition had a "moral obligation" to keep the government born of Edsa II on the right track. Still, the actions of Guingona and Roco will have "serious implications" because both men are major players in the coalition, he said.

Abad had earlier called for reconciliation between Roco and Ms Macapagal, saying the coalition might be forced to choose between them if Roco runs for President in 2004.

ERNIE U SARMIENTO

SAFE but hazardous landing for an Asian Spirit plane at a grassy portion of Naia on Thursday night after its landing gear failed. All 40 passengers, mostly Korean tourists, are safe.

La Salle student's kidnapper gets death

From page A1

1995. He is now detained at the National Bilibid Prison in Muntinlupa City.

Guirindola, who was kidnapped, shot in the face and left for dead in a grassy lot in Batangas in January 1994, said she had expected a conviction but added that it was still a relief to finally get justice after more than eight years of legal battles.

"This only proves that we can still count on government and the criminal justice system to do justice to victims of heinous crimes," she said.

Perez commended Guirindola "for pursuing the case and seeing to it that justice is done."

"Let this serve as a notice to kidnappers," the secretary added.

Roxas was also ordered to pay Guirindola P1.5 million in moral and exemplary damages and over P300,000 in actual damages.

Mother's car

Court records showed Guirindola, then a 20-year-old student, was abducted by Roxas and Gungon while she was driving her mother's 1993 Nissan Sentra (Plate No. TKR 837) on Panay Avenue in Quezon City at about 3:30 p.m. on Jan. 12, 1994. She was on her way to fetch her mother.

Posing as a Metropolitan Manila Development Authority official, Roxas flagged her down and told her she had mistakenly entered a one-way street. Guirindola tried to negotiate with Roxas, who said he would show her the one-way sign and then entered the car.

Roxas said he would alight at Mother Ignacia Avenue, but did not do so. Instead, he returned her driver's license, switched off the car's engine, poked a gun at her and said he wanted the car.

Then another man, later identified as Gungon, got in the car and pulled Guirindola to the backseat.

With Roxas at the wheel, the men then drove to Batangas, where she was forced to drink laced soda which caused her to feel dizzy and fall asleep. When she woke up at about 10 p.m., the men had already taken the money from her wallet and the jewelry she was wearing.

Guirindola then said she needed to pee, and Gungon led her to a grassy area. She had just finished peeing when she saw "white sparks," before she fell down and lost consciousness.

She did not realize she had been shot until after she woke up again and found blood oozing from her face and neck.

Passersby eventually found her and brought her to a hospital.

Gungon was arrested in Davao by agents of the National Bureau of Investigation. He had the car's key with him.

He was tried at the sala of QC Judge Lucas Bersamin, who found him guilty of all charges on Feb. 15, 1995. Gungon's death sentence, the first Bersamin issued, was stayed by President Joseph Estrada in 2000, to allow the Office of the President to "conduct a thorough study of the prisoner's petition for executive clemency."

Roxas was arrested on Sept. 15, 1995.

Asian Spirit plane makes emergency landing at Naia

AN ASIAN Spirit plane with 47 people on board, mostly South Korean tourists, made an emergency landing at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport yesterday, skidding along the tarmac after the landing gear malfunctioned, officials said.

None of the people on board, including 40 adult passengers, three children and four crew members, were injured.

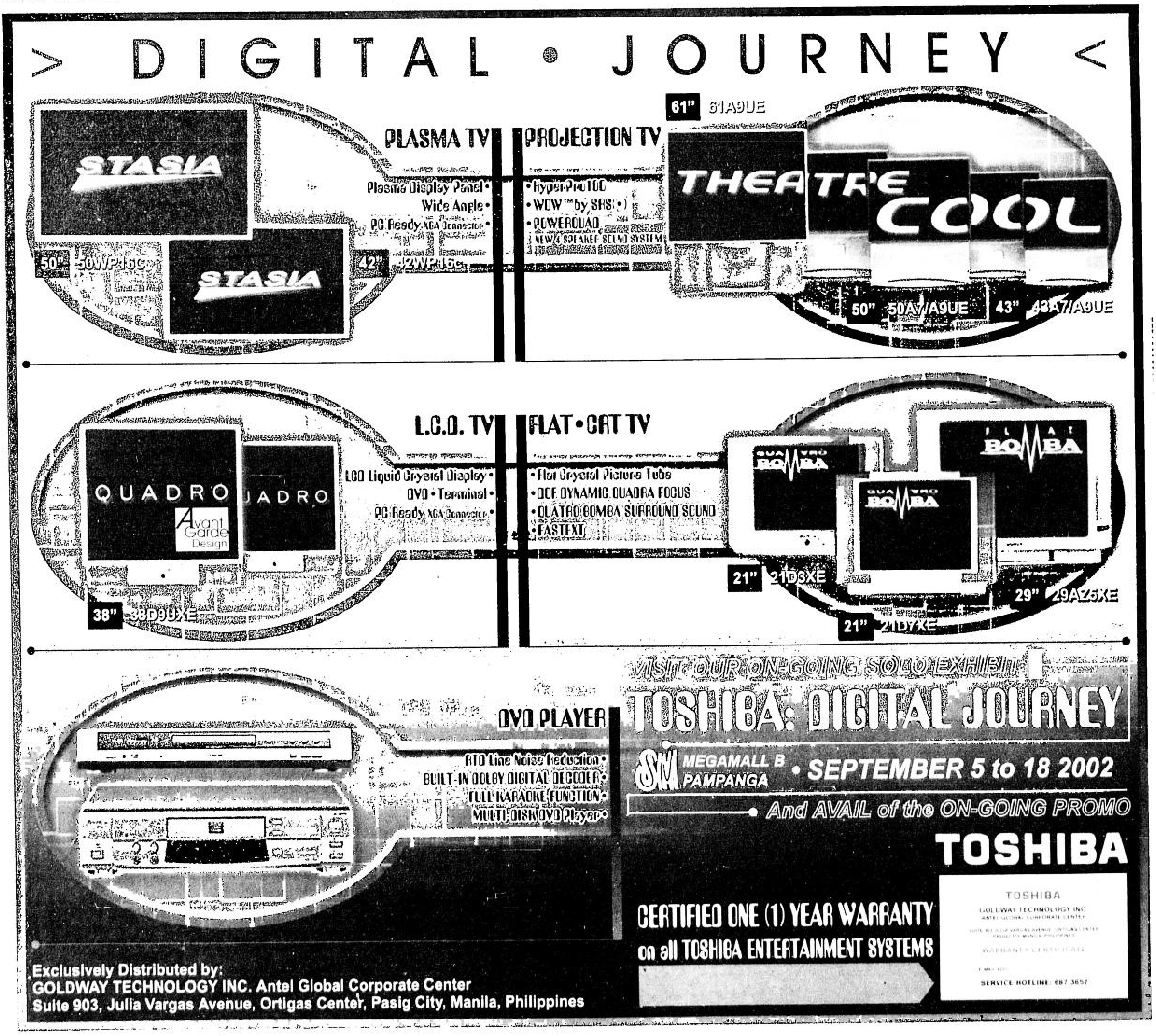
Pilot Carlos Kintanar said he discovered a problem with the hydraulics in the landing gear of the 50-seat De Havilland-7 propeller aircraft shortly after taking off from Manila en route to Caticlan town, Aklan, near the resort island of Boracay.

He said he circled for more than three hours above Manila to use up fuel and try emergency procedures, and then made an emergency landing.

The plane skidded onto the tarmac with one wing scraping the ground for a few seconds before it halted in a grassy area and the passengers applauded, he said.

"We have been trained for this," Kintanar said. "I was confident that no one would be hurt because this aircraft was very slow."

Fire trucks and other rescue vehicles were deployed when the aircraft landed, and the passengers were taken to a nearby airline office. *AP*



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Rains to last only till end of month, weathermen say

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

THIS is either good news or bad news, depending if you like rains or not.

Weather experts are expecting the monsoon season to end on the second half of the month, with the El Niño phenomenon already causing the rise in sea surface temperatures.

Aida Jose, chief of the the Climatology and Agrometeorology Branch of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration, said a weak warm episode continued to prevail in the central and eastern equatorial Pacific as indicated by more than one percent positive departures from normal sea surface temperatures.

"Other oceanic and atmospheric indices also indicate the presence of El Niño," Jose said.

"There is a tendency of an early termination of the monsoon rains on the second half of the month," Jose said.

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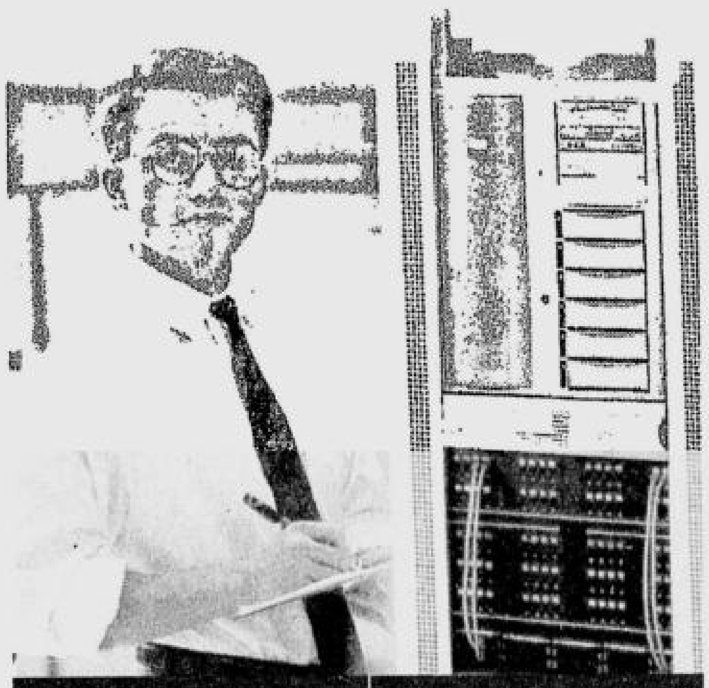

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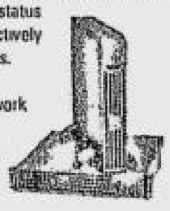

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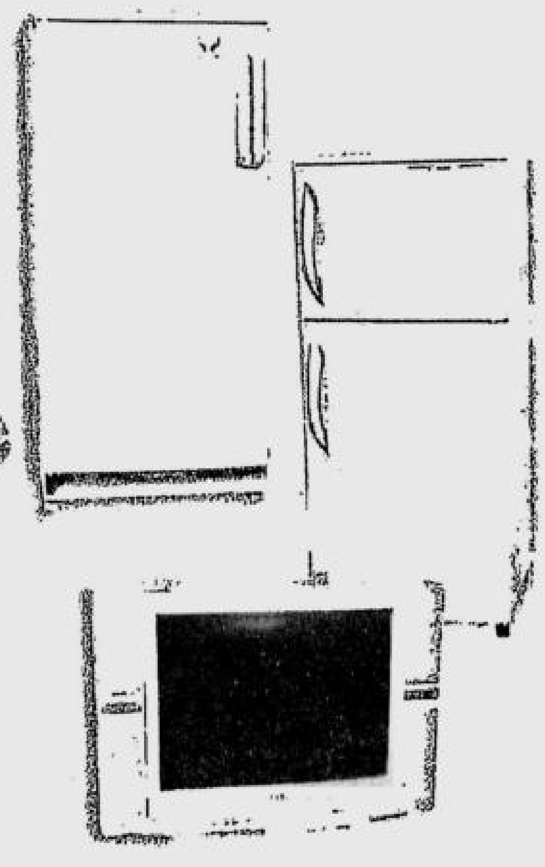

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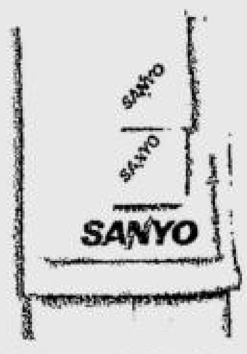

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Early politicking

EDITORIAL

THE POLITICAL pot in this country just keeps simmering regardless of the season. It just stews from one election to the next. The difference now, however, is that the pot has become boiling hot long before the formal campaign season has begun.

The other day, former Education Secretary Raul Roco fired what sounded like the opening salvo of the 2004 presidential campaign by attacking President Macapagal-Arroyo over the distribution of hundreds of thousands of posters carrying her picture and captioned "GMA cares." Roco said Ms Macapagal violated the law when she accepted the posters because public officials are not allowed to receive private donations.

Obviously, Roco was turning the tables on the President. Earlier he had been accused by the Department of Education employees' union of using public funds to print posters carrying his picture and putting them on display in public schools. The President had endorsed the complaint to the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission for investigation, and the endorsement triggered Roco's resignation from the Cabinet.

That was round one. The resignation gave Roco an opportunity to break away from the Macapagal administration. To be fair to both the President and Roco, no one was foul-baiting. But since Roco left the Cabinet, he has not wasted any time in sending the message that he is serious in his pursuit of the presidency—which, of course, did not come as a surprise to anyone.

In his opening salvo, Roco attacked the President not over a fundamental policy question but over an issue which may be described as abuse of power. His broadside was fired more than a year before the election, giving Roco sufficient time to project himself as an alternative to the President in 2004.

Significantly Roco's early campaign underscores the political realignment that has started inside the coalition that carried Ms Macapagal to the presidency following the collapse of the Estrada administration in January 2001. That coalition has now been sundered deeply, and it is very doubtful if its elements can be put together again.

This realignment is all the more disturbing for the administration since the coalition is disintegrating without the opposition lifting a finger. With the resignation of Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr. as foreign secretary on account of fundamental differences over foreign policy and that of Roco, the coalition has lost two of its pillars.

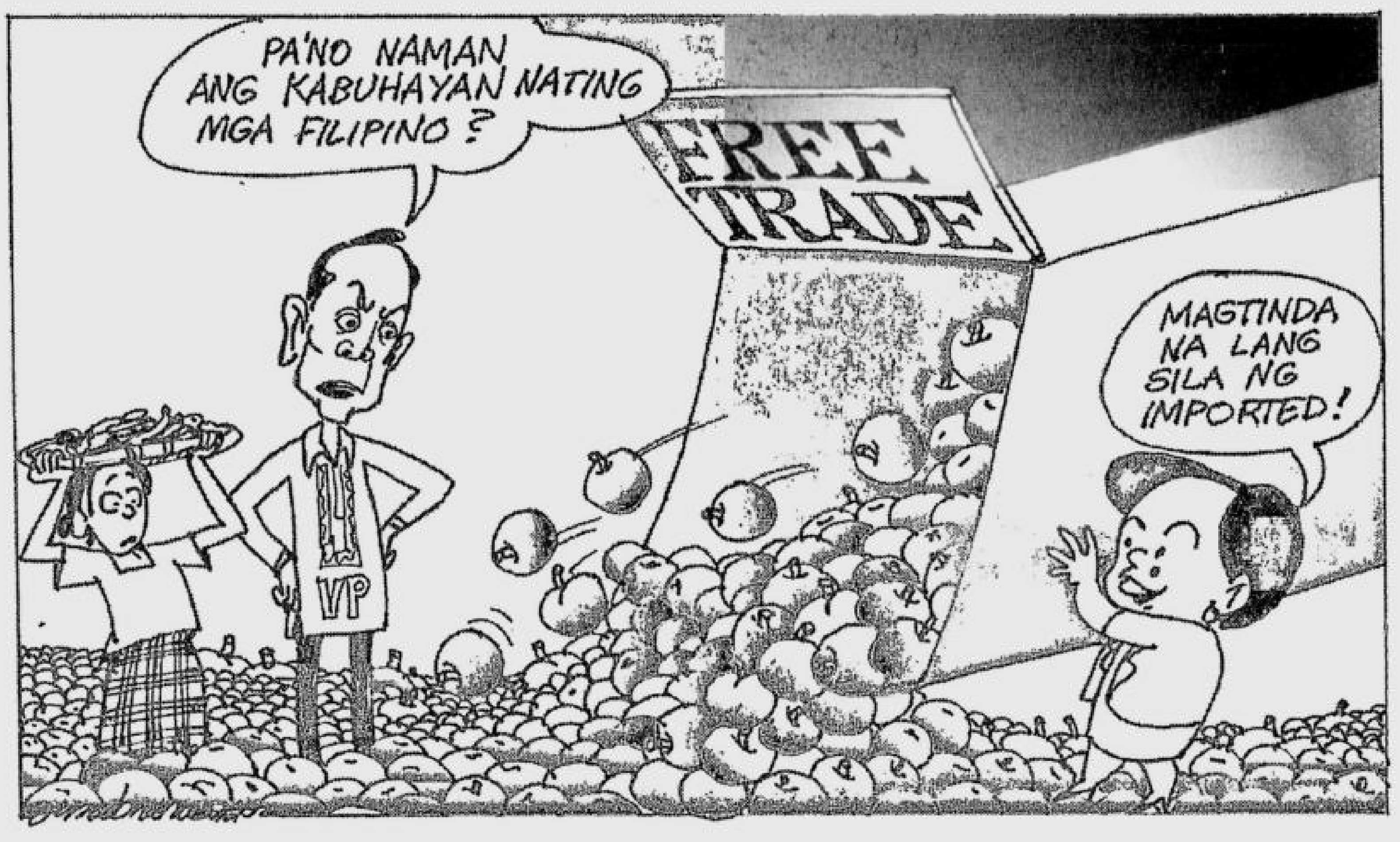
The administration's response to these defections has been to cobble together a new coalition composed of some key figures of the Estrada administration. First Sen. Blas Ople was recruited into the ranks of the administration and appointed secretary of foreign affairs. Now Lt. Gen. Benjamin Defensor has been named as the next chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, and the general perception is that this is intended to win the political support of his sister, former Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, for the administration.

Rebuilding coalitions through recruitment of former political foes entails costs, among which is the alienation of allies in the old coalition. And there is also the question of how solid is a coalition built on shifting alliances.

The early start of the presidential campaign is an unfortunate development. It draws the energy of the nation and the political leadership away from such primary concerns as fixing the economy, containing the budget deficit and restoring law and order.

But then Roco is only trying to beat the President in her own game. Ms Macapagal has long been perceived to have informally launched her own election campaign and used the resources of her office and the advantages it offers to promote her chances of winning in 2004. She has set the trend for early politicking, and other hopefuls would be foolish to let her monopolize the game.

In making a formal break from the administration, Roco has taken some great risks. The election is still far away. There is a danger that his campaign will lose momentum and falter before the finish line is even in sight.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Recall elections being abused by politicians

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

LIKE that stupid Lina law, also known as the Urban Development and Housing Act, the recall provision in the Local Government Code should be repealed. It is subject to abuse, and indeed has been abused. It is now tearing apart the people of Taguig, one of the smallest towns in Metro Manila, with partisan politics. Forces of the Cayetano clan want Mayor Sigfrido Tinga of the Tinga clan recalled. Taguig is not big enough for both of them.

The system of recall elections was included in the 1986 Constitution as an offspring of People Power. Heady with the victory of People Power in unseating a President, the framers of that Constitution wanted to give the people a similar power to unseat abusive local government officials. It gives a majority of barangay officials of a municipality or city to recall a mayor and hold new elections (or a majority of the mayors if it is the governor who is to be recalled). The motive is good but the cure for an abusive local official can be worse than the disease itself. And the infective virus is partisan politics.

In effect, a mere 84 barangay officials (the majority in a barangay council) can overturn the wishes of hundreds of thousands of voters who voted for the sitting mayor. It is easy for a losing candidate to convince 84 barangay officials, through bribery or other means, to sign a petition for recall elections. This can be done without each barangay official even consulting his constituents. In other words, one barangay official can supplant the wishes of thousands of his constituents with his own personal bias. If he happens to be in the political camp of the mayor's rival, he will naturally vote for recall even if it is unjustified.

This abuse happened for the very first time in the first such recall elections in Bataan years ago. Then Gov. Enrique Garcia (now congressman) was recalled by a majority of the mayors who all belonged to the camp of his rivals, the Romans. In the elections that followed, Garcia said he was cheated and he was replaced.

In the later recall elections in Caloocan and Pasay, Mayors Rey Malonzo and Wenceslao Trinidad, respectively, were luckier. They won again and the poll results showed that the process of recalling them by the Preparatory Recall Assembly (PRA) composed of the barangay officials, was no less an abuse. That they were voted again by their constituents, proved that the voters themselves did not want them to be recalled.

Another problem is the authenticity of the signatures of the barangay officials on the recall petition. Mere signatures on a piece of paper can unseat a mayor voted into office by thousands of his constituents. The Commission on Elections is required to verify their authenticity by asking each signatory if that is really his signature. Money, threats or pressure or other considerations can persuade an official to claim a signature that is not his.

Recall elections only make vicious partisan politics seep down further into the barangays. Barangay elections themselves are supposed to be free of partisan politics, precisely because we don't want our people especially neighbors, riven with politics. But because recall elections are the handiwork of local politicians, with barangay officials as the pawns, vicious partisan politics pits neighbors against one another.

In fact, because of this, I think elections for the Kabataang Barangay should be discontinued. They only teach the evils of partisan politics to the young so early.

* * *

The Varsitarian, the official student publication of the University of Sto. Tomas, will have its diamond anniversary this December. So it is inviting former Varsitarian editors and staff members to a series of meetings at the UST in the next five Saturdays, starting tomorrow, to plan the celebration. The meetings will be by batches, starting with the Varsitarian alumni of the '50s tomorrow at lunch. The meetings of the batches of the '60s, '70s, '80s and '90s will follow in the next four Saturdays, respectively.

The Varsitarian is a good training ground not only for students who pursue careers in journalism but also for those who go to other fields. Many Varsitarian alumni have reached heights of achievement. F. Sionil Jose, a Varsitarian editor in chief, is now National Artist for Literature. J. Elizalde Navarro, a Varsitarian artist, is now National Artist for Fine Arts. NVM Gonzales, whose novella "Children of the Ash-Covered Loam" was first published by the Varsitarian Quarterly when I was the V's literary editor, is now also a National Artist for Literature.

Many other V alumni have distinguished themselves in journalism and literature and now run many of our newspapers and broadcast networks, and are in other fields such as medicine, law, public relations, education, etc.

The V is not only an outstanding student publication, it also pioneered in many innovations. The Varsitarian Quarterly, which published fiction, poetry, essays and literary criticism by established writers and rivaled the Literary Apprentice of the University of the Philippines and Sands and Coral of Silliman, is one such publication. When Gloria Garchitorena was the literary editor, she published a literary magazine separate from the news section, just like the national newspapers. And when Dr. Vicente J. A. Rosales was the news editor, he published the news section in a style adapted from Time magazine.

* * *

KAPIHAN NOTES: Guests at next Monday's Kapihan sa Manila Hotel forum are Internal Revenue Commissioner Guillermo Parayno and Customs Commissioner Antonio Bernardo. Topic: what else but the declining revenue collections.

Tunnel vision

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

THE CONTRAST is breathtaking.

We sent a couple of commentators to the RCA Dome in Indianapolis to cover the event. They are Andy Jao and Ed Pecson of PBA fame, and the event they flew halfway around the world for is the 2002 Men's Fiba World Basketball Championship. A couple of local TV channels, Solar and RPN, are airing the game live. I do not know to what following—probably a substantial one, notwithstanding that the outcome of the championship is already known. The only reason to watch the games in fact is not to know who will win, but how the current American Dream Team will win. And how long the rest of the world will take to catch up with America. So far, that's been the only interesting aspect of the "championship."

It contrasts starkly with the way we treated the World Cup a couple of months ago. I wrote about it at the time, my scouring the metropolis to find a place that was beaming the event. It was an event that brought the world to a halt—literally. One English newspaper had a blank front page with the words, "Nothing else matters," when England played Brazil. But it was an event we scarcely noticed. A German would tell me later that that was the first thing he discovered to his great dismay and amusement when he first arrived in this country. A Filipino would not know who Pelé or Maradona was, but he would be able to rattle off the statistics in an NBA game pitting obscure clubs in the 1960s.

I like basketball as much as the next Filipino. And I do watch the Fiba Championships whenever I can. But I do not see why our liking that game must lead us to zealous devotion to it, or drive us to pursue it to the exclusion of all others. I do not see why we shouldn't start exploring our options.

One may say of course that it's really no big deal, it's just a game or sport. Basketball or football, it doesn't matter. The fate of the nation doesn't hang in the balance. But that's not true at all. At the very least, sports is also a matter of national pride. We may not appreciate fully what pride does to a nation, having little discovered its virtue, but other nations do. Soccer in particular for most countries is a boundless source of it. It is more than a game, it is a national treasure, to be guarded with the same vigilance as the crown jewels. Look how far Korea rose in world standing by doing well in the last World Cup. For those who aspire to be part of those games, the fate of their nation does hang in the balance.

Quite apart from that, our attitude toward these sports reflects a great deal of our national personality, and gives us a glimpse into why we haven't progressed as a nation.

We've always thought that because we're into basketball, and the NBA in particular, we're "in," or occupy the center of the world. It's not so at all. You compare the size of the crowd and ferocity of its passion in World Cup games and those of the basketball championship, and you know you're comparing chess and checkers. Arguably, the World Cup, like the Olympics, happens only once every four years. But you compare an ordinary soccer series, like the Asian soccer meets, with the current world basketball championship, and you're still comparing chess and checkers. Soccer is the game that has the world in thrall, not basketball. That's what we're missing, being part of that truly global phenomenon.

Closer to home, that's what's isolating us, sports-wise and ultimately consciousness-wise, from the rest of Asia. I remember again looking for news in a Malaysian paper about the NBA finals some years ago and finding it briefly mentioned in one of the fillers in the sports pages. The main feature in those pages was the Uefa Cup, which was about to start. It was the same thing in Hong Kong, Indonesia, Bangkok and Bangladesh. Their TV was filled with soccer matches and had scant, if any, basketball at all. Our isolation shows even more markedly in our top pick in the current world basketball championship. Who were we rooting for in the USA-China game? The acronym of Solar says it all: Ultimate Suspense and Action.

Of course, there's nothing wrong with being different. In fact it's great to stand alone and do your thing. But that's the part that's even more unfortunate. We're not doing it because we're independent or in charge of our lives, we're doing it because America is doing it, and we're used to doing what America does. It's tunnel vision, and it's doing us harm.

Can anything be more self-destructive than trying to pursue excellence in a game designed for people who are big and tall? Can anything be more self-flagellating than hiring imports to make us look like patsies? Yet we do it, for no other reason than that we don't know what else to do.

An Australian who has lived here for a long time, and who followed the World Cup faithfully, pointed out to me the incalculable loss in all this. Soccer, he said, is clearly a game Filipinos could excel in in time. At least it offers better opportunities than basketball. We'll never be able to get far in basketball, unless we practice genetic engineering. But we can always get far in soccer, with grit, industry, and creativity. The last we have no lack of.

Ask yourself if that isn't the same attitude we show in rattling sabers against America's enemies, a thing that is isolating us from other Asian countries, many of which are Muslim. It's a game clearly designed for nations that are big and strong. It's good to be different, to stand alone and do your thing, but only if that comes from a feisty sense of independence, not inertia. Some tunnels you'll find no light at the end of.

Sports do have much to say about life.

* * *

Comments to dequiros@vasia.com

Fear, profit key to Earth Summit goals, not words

NEWS ANALYSIS

Alastair Macdonald

JOHANNESBURG—It should have been Sept. 11. The Earth Summit was brought forward so its final day on Wednesday would not be clouded by painful memories—yet the shadow of the Twin Towers lay over Johannesburg nonetheless.

Fear that the world's poor and angry billions can no longer be kept at arm's length lent whatever sense of urgency could be discerned among rich nations' leaders as they signed up to a wordy but toothless UN action plan to end what South Africa's president called the "global apartheid" poisoning the planet.

For evidence that two worlds are now one, the head of the World Bank James Wolfensohn said, "we need only think of the image of the twin towers of the World Trade Center." There was an urgent need for the rich to end poverty and defuse the anger spilling over the crumbling frontiers of their global village.

Though Western governments play down any links between Third World poverty in general and the attacks on the United States, officials in Johannesburg acknowledged that a sense of the danger of ignoring the anger was driving policy as never before.

"A year after Sept. 11, the key issue is do we create a fairer world order, or do we fall into a complete lack of order," said Germany's Development Minister Heidemarie Wieczorek-Zeul.

A "precautionary peace treaty" for the 21st century, was how the head of the UN Environment Program, Klaus Toepfer, described the summit's goals. Self-interest in securing peace at home is a stronger force for change than feeble altruism.

The symbolism of South Africa was ubiquitous, eight years after the white minority agreed to share its power rather than live under the threat of bloody revolution. "Global apartheid" was just as unsustainable in a shrinking world, delegates said.

The 10-day World Summit on Sustainable Development in the plush Sandton Convention Centre ended on Wednesday with pages of fine words, setting goals for "halving poverty" and cleaning up the environment, healing the sick and saving rare species.

But the broken promises of the Rio Earth Summit 10 years ago remain more real to those just outside, living in the squalid, AIDS-infected slums of one of Africa's most crime-ridden cities.

US Secretary of State Colin Powell, standing in for the conspicuously absent President George W. Bush, had a taste of that frustration when activists heckled him during a speech about Washington's commitment to the poor and the planet.

Comparing the World Trade Center to the Biblical symbol of mankind's self-destructive arrogance, Uganda's President Yoweri Museveni, a darling of international financial institutions, said Africans were sick of Western hypocrisy and ready to fight.

"The Western countries are engaged in building the Tower of Babel and that tower will collapse and affect all of us," he said. "We fought colonialism. We can fight this double talk." He demanded fair access to Western markets and an end to destructive consumerist damage being inflicted on the planet—key pledges renewed at the summit, but in the vaguest of terms.

If unlike Rio de Janeiro this summit is followed by results, it will have to do with real, self-interest concerns in the West and have little to do with the texts signed, most of which had been agreed in other UN forums before, although some said it would influence the agenda of truly powerful global bodies, like the World Bank and International Trade Organization.

Calling such UN declarations "vague and woolly" as a result of compromises between strongly opposed interests, international law professor Robert Hudec of Tufts University said they had little value as law and relied on political will.

Citing a renewed pledge to halve the numbers living on less than a dollar a day by 2015—a goal hailed by some as firmer than most because of the deadline—he said: "Here you can never have a legal commitment because everybody is responsible.

So nobody is responsible. There's no court you can go to." The same could be said for the other much trumpeted targets—to restore fish stocks, save species,,clean up trade in toxic chemicals or provide sanitation—let alone pledges to "aim to reduce" unfair trade barriers, "improve efforts" to promote green fuels or "make every effort" to halt global warming.

"In 10 years you'll have a slightly angrier group of people who'll press some sort of claim," Hudec said, adding this "soft law" could be hardened up over decades of being reaffirmed.

"But it's a political process." If Western politicians have long failed to keep promises—like a 30-year-old target for aid that was repeated again on Wednesday or Rio pledges to slow global warming—it is because their voters have shown little interest in paying for them.

There may just be signs of change in that political climate after Sept. 11 and growing awareness of changes in the climate, for example with last month's floods in Europe.

Though no fan of what she sees as the Bush administration's promotion of oil interests, veteran American environmentalist Hunter Lovins said she saw signs that some US policymakers were taking seriously security risks posed by environmental damage. She numbers the Pentagon among her consultancy clients.

"(Many) people in the military...realize that unless the US gets serious about creating real security around the world they are going to have to fight increasingly unpleasant wars in unpleasant places over various resource issues," she said.

"This is not about compassion," said Carly Fiorina, chief executive of US computer giant Hewlett-Packard Co.

"This is about enlightened self-interest."

Reuters

Sex abuse and sex trafficking in Malaysia

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

SOME years ago, I heard stories about Filipino women trafficked into Sabah and set up in brothels just outside the border of Brunei. A prosperous but conservative sultanate ruled under strict Islamic precepts where entertainment and recreation are enjoyed only by members of the royal family, Brunei has no nightclubs or brothels for the patronage of its wealthy but non-royal citizens. So the houses of ill repute lying just a short drive away across the border provide ordinary Bruneians "welcome" relief from their drab existence. At the same time, the arrangement allows the Sultanate to maintain Brunei's image as a squeaky-clean Islamic state.

The trafficking of Filipinas for purposes of prostitution in Malaysia has been going on for decades. In the book "Nightmare Journeys: Filipina Sojourns through the World of Trafficking," "Alicia" tells of traveling to Johor Bahru, a Malaysian town this time just outside the border with Singapore, to work as a dancer in a club. She was just 15 at the time.

Apparently, Johor Bahru is well known among male tourists and residents in "squeaky-clean" Singapore, which deems its pristine streets fit only for "wholesome" entertainment. For more carnal forms of recreation, the men need just drive across the causeway into "JB," where women—Filipinas and Thais mostly—offer their charms.

I can't believe Malaysian authorities were completely ignorant of the existence of the brothel camps in Sabah or of the huge entertainment complexes in Johor Bahru. In fact, "Alicia" told me that the reason she decided to leave after a year was that Malaysian immigration police began raiding the clubs in that city after one of her Pinay colleagues escaped and took up with a Malaysian policeman. In fact, it seems to me a cynical, though profitable, policy on the part of the Malaysian government to tolerate the proliferation of sex establishments along their borders to help their puritanical neighbors maintain the myth of social uprightness while allowing their restless residents to blow off some steam.

It might have eased Mahathir Mohammad's conscience, too, to know that the women victimized by the sex syndicates were foreigners and "infidels," so there was nothing to worry his good Muslim soul about.

***

BUT at the same time I can't believe Filipino authorities knew nothing of the trafficking of Filipinas to Malaysia and everywhere else in the world where there's a market for our women. At every step of the process—from recruitment, to having papers processed, going through immigration, dealing with embassies abroad, and then seeking justice against the traffickers—government officials have proven to be accessories, if not ringleaders, in the criminal activity.

Which is why all this fuss being raised about the sexual exploitation of women deportees by Malaysian police, an act in itself condemnable, seems belated, if not a tad bit hypocritical, when voiced by Filipino officials. The frightful truth is that local officials have long known about the sexual exploitation of women in our shores and abroad. Sex trafficking has been and remains a big business, and it has grown only because authorities have allowed it.

About the only good thing arising from the sex abuse scandal is that it has brought the trafficking of Filipinas into Malaysia out in the open.

Bishop Ramon Arguelles has even come out to accuse "members of Congress and military officials" of involvement with white slavery rings operating in Sabah. Arguelles, who chairs the Episcopal Commission for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People (Ecmi), said the Christian women who were turned into "sex slaves" by Malaysian police while under detention were probably victims of the white slavery gangs.

In yesterday's news report, Arguelles was quoted as saying government agencies were aware of the trafficking that was going on "but were not working hard to stop the malpractice." Says the bishop: "Now we are reaping the whirlwind."

So how seriously, do you think, Mahathir and other Malaysian officials will take the recent protest of the Philippine government regarding the sexual abuse of Filipina deportees? No matter how strongly worded and how close it skirts the borders of diplomatic language, the protest loses moral force in the wake of government's indifference to the long-standing problem of trafficking of our women.

***

FOR almost a decade now, women's organizations involved in the issue of trafficking, most notably the Coalition against Trafficking of Women (CAT-W), have fought tenaciously for the passage of an Anti-Trafficking Law.

As it did in the last Congress, the proposed Anti-Trafficking measure has been passed by the House of Representatives, but is finding it hard going in the Senate. Though I'm not so naïve to believe that the passage of a piece of legislation would bring an end to the extremely profitable (and extremely cruel) trade in our women, a law would at least be a formal statement of government policy against it, while redefining the status of the women in the sex industry from "criminals" to "victims."

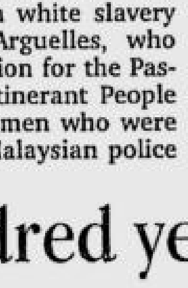
The President, let's make it clear, is right to express, in the strongest terms possible, her and her government's anger and dismay at the sexual abuse of Filipino women over whom the Malaysian authorities had custodial responsibility. But for this outrage to be credible and be imbued with real moral certitude, she should take the lead in addressing the issue of sex trafficking of Filipinas, and not just to Malaysia. Certifying the Anti-Trafficking bill for Senate passage would be a good first step.

***

Comments to rjdavid@inquirer.com.ph

Prostitution a hundred years ago

LOOKING BACK



Ambeth R. Ocampo

OVER THE YEARS I have corresponded with Tom Colvin, formerly of the Asian Development Bank, regarding his research and documentation on almost all the monuments around the Philippines. We have never met face to face and I was pleasantly surprised to hear from him again. This time Colvin is doing research on the Balmis Expedition (1803-1805) that brought smallpox vaccine to the Philippines. What gives his project a new twist is the fact that Balmis used children to transport the vaccine. Orphaned Filipino boys were utilized as carriers of the smallpox vaccine to Canton and Macao. In those days the vaccine had a short shelf life and it traveled best in a live human body. Colvin inquired if I had material on the Balmis expedition, I asked around and Josefina Hofileña, a colleague in the Ateneo History Department suggested I look up a reference in "Agents of Apocalypse: Epidemic Disease in the Colonial Philippines" by Ken de Bevoise (Princeton University Press, 1995). My copy of the book has gathered dust on my shelves for five years and I am glad I found a reason to open it.

"Agents of the Apocalypse" is a marvel of archival research and analysis. Best of all De Bevoise writes in a lucid and engaging manner, a rare gift in academic historians. I used to think that Reynaldo Ileto's 1988 essay "Cholera and the Origins of the American Sanitary Order in the Philippines" was the last word on the subject until I read De Bevoise who also looked up venereal disease, beriberi and malaria. Placed in the context of the changing social, political and environmental background in the colonial Philippines the archival data on disease and epidemics gives us yet another way of looking back and understanding our past. No wonder other historians have been hard at work on typhoons, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, even horse breeding as a lens to understanding Philippine history.

Naturally, I went through the chapter on venereal disease and remembered the bundles marked "Prostitucion" in the Philippine National Archives. I didn't find much of interest in these bundles, but De Bevoise was able to reconstruct stories like this:

"Sometime in November 1897, sixteen-year-old Faustina Trias left her home in Calumpit, Bulacan, and moved with her husband Candido Ramos, to Manila, where they entered the domestic service of a certain Doña Ladislana. After about a month, seamstress Martina Rafael and her husband, Pedro de los Santos, a day laborer, offered to employ the couple. Despite their less-than-lofty social status, Rafael and Santos somehow convinced Trias and Ramos to transfer to their service. Doña Ladislana had already advanced Ramos twenty-three pesos, however, so it was arranged that Rafael would pay the debt in full, and Ramos would reimburse her by going to work as a coachman for another Spaniard, Don Catalino Sevilla. With her young husband out of the way, Rafael took Trias for a walk a few nights later and delivered her to a house of prostitution run by Alejandra Umali. There, Trias was locked up and held as a virtual slave for a month and a half and forced to have sexual relations with those who came to the house.

"After experiencing genital bleeding, she became frantic but could not escape because the other inmates helped keep guard over her. She finally slipped away one night when Umali was sleeping and no one else was watching. She found her husband in his lodgings at a rice store owned by a barrio captain, and together they went to the tribunal and told her story to a judge. An action was brought in early 1898 against Rafael, De los Santos and Umali. A medico titular testified that Trias could not attend the preliminary hearings because of the serious venereal disease that she had suffered for more than a month. Umali had disappeared, and the authorities were still searching for her when Admiral Dewey sailed into Manila, throwing the colonial administration into disarray and effectively terminating minor legal actions like this one."

The above narration reads very much like newspaper stories today, making me conclude that we have not progressed very much in the last 100 years. Archival documents on prostitution cover the years 1858-1897 and are far from complete but De Bevoise noted that the prostitutes were mostly women, usually from rural areas in Luzon, whose poverty forced them to make a living in Manila. What I find disturbing is the conclusion that some of the prostitutes probably got approval or consent from desperate parents. Occupation of some fathers were: 9 day laborers, 1 boatman, 1 coachman, 1 fisherman, 1 carpenter, 1 shoemaker and 1 buttonholer. Of the mothers with jobs we have: 8 seamstresses, 3 laundrywomen, 1 cigar maker, 1 shopkeeper and 1 rice bagger. Of the 117 women who turned to the sex trade their occupation was: 44 seamstresses, 36 cigar makers, 20 laundrywomen, 9 domestic servants, 5 shopkeepers (*tinderas* who didn't own the store), 2 laborers and 1 midwife. Most were illiterate. Ages averaging from 13 to 41 years old, most of them around 18 years old. Then as now, the stories are the same: sexual exploitation, the elaborate network of pimps, corrupt police and health officials etc. Reading the chapter on venereal disease was depressing because prostitution as a social problem remains very much the same as it did over a century ago.

***

Comments are welcome at ambeth@admu.edu.ph

Retirees and pensions

HIGH BLOOD

Amado F. Cabaero

WE'D also like to know the concerns of the sixtysomething and above, what makes their blood pressure rise or makes them sit back, content that all's well with their world and with themselves. —Ed.

HAVING lived 78 years until now, I got to thinking of what I have accomplished in my life. Other than overcoming the hardship of a working night student and earning a degree on my own, what stood out as my major accomplishment was siring and raising a brood of 11 children and working for some 44 years of not so hard labor in banking to get them all through school. That was speaking for myself, for my wife went through an entirely different kind of labor that she never lets me forget.

Three years into my retirement, I suffered a stroke which paralyzed half of my body. Instead of succumbing to self-pity, I set myself a goal: to go back to playing golf in one year. I did exactly that. But that was because of a good doctor, a loving family and a friend up there. And also because, as I bragged to my golfing friends, I did not allow myself to be overwhelmed by it. I practically willed myself to recovery. Even my doctor was surprised. When he gave me a conditional clean bill of health, he also gave me a bill that cleaned out my pockets unconditionally.

Which got me to thinking about my Social Security System retirement pension. After contributing for over 40 years and retiring as a senior executive, I wondered why my SSS pension was a measly P2,400 a month. I wanted to ask around, but I discovered that when retirees get together, they talk about politics, the weather, viagra and the poor service at the corner drugstore. Never is pension discussed. Maybe because they have low pensions too and are ashamed to talk about it.

So I asked the SSS. I was told that that was all I was entitled to under the SSS law. Talking like a lawyer which I am not, I asked about inflation. Didn't they know of Article 1405 of the Civil Code about the value of money at time of contract as basis of payment? Nyet, they said, pensions are not indexed to inflation.

I wrote to the Opinion section of the INQUIRER to air my disgust. I was surprised to get a flood of mail and calls from retirees all over the country also complaining about their pension. I discovered later that about 70 percent of SSS retirees receive pensions of P1,200 to P2,400 due to a P1,000 "monthly salary credit" base until 1986. When I called for an organization of retirees, people from Ilocos to Bicol swarmed the Philamlife meeting hall in Las Piñas, on May 1, 1999. And because it was my bright idea, I was elected president and chair of the national executive board (NEB). The members included high-strung retired professionals, military men, senior executives and a retired priest, all raring to fight to get justice from the SSS and Government Service Insurance System. Like a band of rogues, they wanted to march right off to the SSS but they decided to leave it to the NEB because of arthritis.

Thus I was forced to lead a fight for better retirement pensions in behalf of almost a million pensioners and the rest of about 24 million SSS and GSIS members. The Philippine Association of Retired Persons (PARP) will be the means for waging that fight. Its purposes in the Securities and Exchange Commission registration were less ballistic: to promote the welfare and interest of retired persons, as well as enhance the quality of their lives and dignity as human beings. Like a politician's humbug. But we are dead serious about it.

The NEB immediately met with the SSS and GSIS top officials and unequivocally asked for an increase in pensions to challenge all their claims of huge earnings from their investments. Though adamant in their stand that they could not afford due to lack of funds, after a series of conferences the SSS nevertheless granted a 10-percent increase in 1999 and in 2000, and the GSIS made adjustments, a concession to our persistence we like to believe, but the increases were announced by former President Estrada to gain political mileage.

Despite that, pensions remain woefully inadequate. And we are still pressing for more.

Then, contrary to what they had been telling us, the SSS and GSIS invested P15 billion in EBC-PCIBank, without exercising due diligence required by law. The PARP denounced the investment publicly and confronted the officials but they gave us the lame excuse that as experienced bankers they knew a good investment when they saw one. We filed a complaint with the Ombudsman who, just recently, found them and their assistants guilty and were suspended. We filed cases involving the same officials in other graft-ridden loans and investments, and against illegal SSS strikers. These are still pending with the Ombudsman.

The PARP has thus evolved into fiscalizers of the SSS and GSIS. Realizing how Estrada and his cohorts ravaged the SSS and GSIS, the members want to assert their right as owners of their trust fund to manage, or at least participate in the management, of the two systems. The PARP has taken steps toward this end and to restrict investments by proposing or supporting amendatory bills in Congress.

Losses in investments made during the Estrada administration, as per the SSS 2001 annual report, totaled P17.3 billion, not including the actual drop in market value (around 80 percent currently) of their combined investment in EBC-PCIBank. Consequently, for lack of available funds, the present SSS management wants to increase contributions to avert the system's collapse by 2015. The PARP's position is for the SSS to recover its investment losses, prosecute the erring officials, collect contributions more effectively and allow the PARP to audit independently SSS records, before talking about increase in contributions. We are waiting to see these happen.

To be more effective, the PARP urgently needs the support of more members of the SSS and GSIS, retired or over the age of 50. Membership fees and annual dues are nominal. Governed by a dedicated 15-member group serving absolutely free as its national executive board, the PARP now has 23 chapters around the country with almost 3,000 members. More chapters are being organized as members began to realize the need for the PARP to protect their interests. Many feel that the PARP should have been organized earlier. But it is not too late. Before we fade away, let us do what we must, while we can. How we rise to this challenge today is how our children will remember us when it is their turn to retire. So we say to retirees and retirables: Don't just carp, join PARP! Call us at 872-0541 to register.

The PARP also provides opportunities for volunteerism and community service to keep the retiree occupied and to make use of his talent and expertise. We believe that being active in old age, especially in PARP activities, is a sure way of prolonging and enjoying the rest of our lives; that retirees who put themselves on the shelf, or make their beds their home, wither and die before they are dead.

That's the reason why at 78, I am still alive and kicking. The PARP may take a long time achieving its goals, but starting it was achievement enough for me.

Amado F. Cabaero is the national president of the Philippine Association of Retired Persons.

LETTERS

Why Dr. Cynthia Maung was not at RM awards

CONSPICUOUS during the Ramon Magsaysay awarding ceremonies on Aug. 31 was the absence of Dr. Cynthia Maung, Burmese medical doctor and this year's awardee for community leadership. The reason offered by the Ramon Magsaysay Foundation during the ceremonies was that Dr. Maung's busy schedule did not permit her to fly to Manila and get her award.

The real reason though is weightier than a hectic schedule: Thailand has been rounding up Burmese nationals including democracy activists residing in Thailand. This recent step by Thailand's government is geared toward normalizing its bilateral relation with Burma which was recently ruffled by border skirmishes involving the Thai and Burmese militaries and two ethnic Burmese militias.

Fearing that her return trip from Manila to Thailand may pose some unwanted problems emanating from the recent crackdown on Burmese activists, Dr. Maung has decided to skip the Magsaysay awarding altogether.

In a video message presented during the awarding, Dr. Maung called for support for Burma's democratic opposition led by Nobel Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi, who was recently released from house arrest by Burma's ruling military junta. She highlighted the political failure of the ruling military regime in Burma to provide for its own people who leave for neighboring countries such as Thailand.

We at the Initiatives for International Dialogue sincerely hope that the Philippines, its government and the international community will view the award to Dr. Maung not just as a recognition of her dedicated service to the Burmese refugees in Thailand but, more importantly, as a bolster to the righteousness and legitimacy of the democratic opposition in Burma.

—MERCI FERRER,
deputy director, Initiatives for International Dialogue (IID),
Unit 15-D, 2/F Casal Bldg.,
15 Anonas Road, Project 3,
Quezon City

Any methods better than Fernando's?

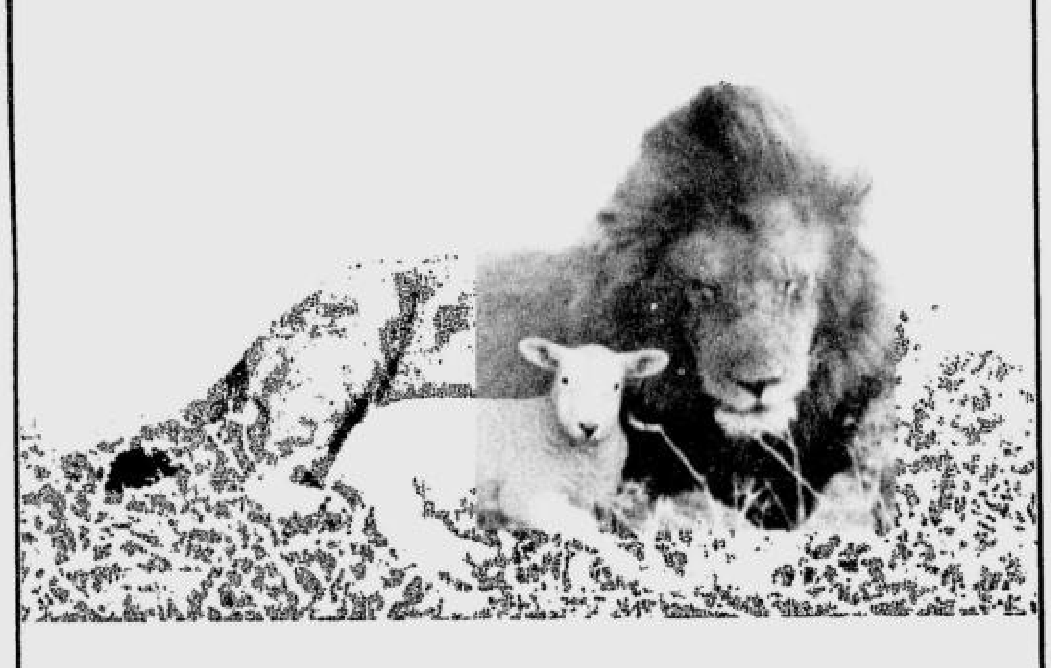
APPARENTLY some people including party-list Rep. Crispin Beltran and Fr. Robert Reyes are not happy over the decision of Metropolitan Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando to rid our public markets and streets of vendors. Although Reyes admitted that he does not disagree with Fernando's campaign per se, he does not buy the "methodology" especially on the matter of pouring kerosene on the vendors' merchandise.

So maybe it's about time the anti-PPA lawmaker and the famed running priest share with us their suggestions about how to solve this perennial problem more completely, considering the mob attitude of the vendors in situations like this.

If they have better methods than what Fernando has been applying, maybe they ought to come out into the open and share it. I think this is one way of asking them "what they can really do for their country" to paraphrase the great JFK, and not just run around and instigate mass actions against people who are also out to do something good for their country.

—TYRONE PARAGUA,
tecmedel@email.com.

The Millennium: What Will It Be Like?



Have you ever wondered what it's like to live in a world governed by God?

The Bible speaks of a time when Christ will come down and establish His Kingdom on earth. The book of Revelation speaks of a thousand-year period known popularly as the Millennium when the resurrected saints will reign with Christ on earth (Revelation 20:4-6). The Bible describes the Millennium as an era of peace where the lion shall dwell with the calf (Isaiah 11:6); where nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore (Micah 4:3).

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ADMISSION IS FREE

What: Video and interactive discussion on the resurrection

Where/When:
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Lubang Function Room
EDSA Shangri-La Hotel
Mandaluyong City
September 7, 2002 2-5 PM

ILOILO CITY
Oleander Function Room
Amigo Terrace Hotel, Cor. Iznart &
Delgado Sts., Iloilo City
September 7, 2002 2-5 PM

BICOL REGION
Bicol Science & Technology Centrum
J. Miranda Avenue, Naga City
September 7, 2002 10-12 AM

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NAME
ADDRESS

Tattered and faded symbol

THAT was a beautiful, symbolic photo of the "state of the nation" feature on the front page last Sept. 3, 2002.

The flag, tattered and faded standing in the squatters' colony on Macapagal Boulevard, eloquently and graphically portrays the current status of our impoverished country, divided and fragmented by a myriad of problems through decades of corruption and lack of authentic reforms and political will in governance.

Likewise, our justice system, to quote a lady justice recently, is *"just tiis"* or simply endure and suffer. It has not changed and the hope for it to reform itself remains a dream for this and the succeeding generations of Filipinos.

But tattered though it is like that INQUIRER photo of the flag, by the winds of time, our nation will stand proud despite its sordid state that drives our people to work and settle in other lands across the earth.

As God's love may be likened to the sun, we know that all this suffering is part of our nation's purification and cleansing.

We will all survive as we have done in the last five decades of this republic.

—VIC DEL FIERRO JR., president,
Coalition for Consumer Protection & Welfare, 104 Gaiety St., Better Living, Parañaque City

The question of pay for GOCC execs

FIFTEEN executives of government-owned and controlled corporations (GOCCs) are in an uproar over Presidential Anti-Graft Commission (PAGC) Chair Dario Rama's move to investigate them for non-compliance with the President's directive issued 12 months ago that they reduce their remunerations to justifiable levels. They claim that their honor and good names are besmirched by such a move of the PAGC.

If they follow the example of former Education Secretary Raul Roco who resigned for having been subjected to a PAGC investigation, the country will be better off as they can be replaced by others, who do not have an exaggerated esteem of themselves and would work for less benefits for themselves and for the privilege of serving the nation in this time of extreme difficulty.

The GOCC officials are perhaps embarrassed that their pay will be known by the general public considering that the GOCC they manage may be floundering in financial difficulties and may in fact be subsidized by the national government. The National Power Corp. is foremost among ill-managed GOCCs and the Bangko Sental ng Pilipinas cannot even get us out of the black list of countries suspected of money laundering. The Bangko Sentral governor would explain that they did not make any move to comply with the presidential directive because they had not received any guideline, implying that they had assumed the President was not serious about her 12-month old directive. Considering GMA's nonchalant attitude toward the PAGC's investigation from which she is reported to be distancing, the Bangko Sentral governor may be right that the much ballyhooed directive was merely for media consumption.

The GSIS and SSS have warned that they may soon be unable to meet their obligations to their members. In the case of the SSS, three more exorbitantly paid executives will be returning to their desks after suspension for gross incompetence in the performance of their duties. They will soon add to the financial burden of the SSS and probably put the SSS once more in jeopardy of their incompetent decisions. SSS president Corazon dela Paz suggests raising the premium of the members to cope with the need for more funds.

The less evil solution to the SSS predicament is not to increase premium payments where the irresponsible officials will have more funds to abuse and blunder with, but to reduce the benefits of the officials and, regrettably, the members also to the level the system can afford. It may also be worth considering membership of the SSS and GSIS be made voluntary, with the employees given the option to go to private preneed organizations of their choice.

—E.P. DAKANAY JR., 43 Baltazar St., Philamlife Village, Pamplona, Las Piñas City

What are your thoughts on the Sabah deportees?

VOICES ON INQ7.NET

I AM almost sure that the recent action by Malaysia is precipitated by the changing dynamics in the region and the deportation is an effort to manage the cultural mix in Sabah. There is no doubt that Malaysia's action is not only inhumane but downright illegal.

The Sabah issue has the potential for some serious conflict between Malaysia and the Philippines.—**Carlos**

* * *

The present tack of Mahathir to have Malaysia in better control of its borders and territory is correct. If terrorism has to be eradicated, then this is a necessary move. We would be doing the same if illegal Chinese or Indians are harboring armed rebels from their mother country.

Ople should tone down his everlasting empty rhetoric. He's going to push us into war with Malaysia. He should deal with the problem at hand...and very quietly.

The Philippines has to face up to the problem. Western Mindanao has long been neglected. These Filipinos went to Malaysia for work.—**Yinamiran**

* * *

I thought the Philippines has a claim to Sabah and explicitated it way back during the administration of GMA's father, Diosdado. Did the Philippines give up its claim? If the Philippines believes that technically Sabah belongs to the Philippines, then Gloria's administration can protest the illegal deportation of its citizens.

But it is hard to claim territorial rights if you don't have a strong economy and military. I hope the Philippines will not give up its claim and future Philippine presidents will really build a strong republic.—**Luzviminda**

* * *

The only criticism I have for the Malaysians is that they do not have the right to copy RP's maltreatment of Filipino citizens. The Malaysian government should not lower their standards to the level of the Philippine government.—**sulung**

* * *

I am in no way defending Malaysia. But from all the talk in this forum, it sounds like Malaysia has singled out Filipinos. Malaysia is doing the same thing to Indonesian migrant workers—expelling illegal migrant workers and treating them harshly.—**Doreen**

* * *

I don't know why most are against Malaysia. It is simply applying its law. The problem lies with the Filipinos. We are always looking for someone to blame. It's about time they take responsibility.—**jeffdy**

* * *

Jeffdy, the issue is maltreatment (beating, starving and denigration of men, women and children). This is inhumane and deserves a very strong condemnation from any self-respecting country. What the Malaysians have done, in my opinion, is a form of state-sanctioned terrorism. Think about it.—**enterprise**

* * *

The fact I am arguing about is that they were given a chance to leave or file for amnesty. They did not follow the country's law. Therefore, if that country had to use force, by the rules operating in Malaysia, then they can do that, whether it is right or wrong in our view.—**jeffdy**

* * *

What we are outraged at is the method they use to enforce their law. They jam over 100 people into a boat which can carry only 30 passengers, then set them out over rough seas; one has to wonder how inhumane can a country be? They put the so-called illegal immigrants inside a crowded prison, let them starve and suffer diseases like unwanted animals—is that a part of civilized law?—**Karaniwang_Tao**

* * *

This event just proved to me how the world really looks at Filipinos. Sad to say, we are but second, maybe even third-class members of the world community, in the eyes of the rest of the globe.—**acidboy**

* * *

Just look at this thread. Many have been lambasting Malaysia and talking about reviving the claim to Sabah; criticizing Ople and Gloria; criticizing the military, etc. But how many of us have pleaded for help for the children and women dying out there? We're all the same as our wretched politicians. We all want to get even and save face! Our people are dying and we are still concerned with image.—**Pedro Penduko**

* * *

It is wrong for Malaysians to rape Filipinas just because they are illegals in Sabah. However, if you go to the various hotels in Ermita and Makati and also in Cebu, you will see underage girls selling their bodies to foreigners in order to buy food to support their families or buy shabu for personal use. Maybe all those Filipinos who are rightly indignant about the rapes in Malaysia should do something personally to help the young impoverished girls in Ermita, Makati, Cubao and Cebu before talking about renewing RP's claim to Sabah.—**sulung**

Napocor tower on Leyte campus protested

THIS letter concerns a news report, titled "Leyte State U rejects Napocor tower on campus," which was published last Aug. 28.

Firstly, I thank you for giving national prominence to an issue that has been hounding our municipality and which has caused bitter division among the people for a long time now. As an alumnus of the institution, I am proud of the fact that LSU president Dr. Paciencia P. Milan, herself an environmentalist, found the courage to speak up despite the fact that she is heading a government institution.

If indeed Presidential Assistant for Eastern Visayas Victor Domingo did insinuate that those who oppose the Napocor project were "left-leaning," that's irresponsible of him. As Milan put it, "We also have the right to live and the right to express our grievances."

But then what else is new? President Macapagal-Arroyo herself continues to label legitimate organizations seeking real changes in a poor society as terrorist groups.

We are not against development. We believe that development and the environment complement each other. Unfortunately, the Napocor chose and continues to choose the path of deception and intimidation. It refuses to listen to our legitimate concerns. It ignores the environmentalists who presented the idea of a submarine cable as an alternative.

I do not know how long Milan will be able to withstand the pressure from local officials and many unseen interests. Indeed, she needs everybody's help.

It should be pointed out that the multibillion project of the Napocor also includes Leyte-Mindanao in addition to Leyte-Bohol. It remains a mystery to many of us why Leyte-Mindanao was able to get an environmental compliance certificate from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. We hope Secretary Heherson Alvarez will look into this.

We, in the environmental groups understand that the road to victory is not easy but we are determined to fight to the end. In a recent TV interview, Chief Justice Hilario Davide said the environment is his "real passion." I hope that one day it will become everybody's passion, too.

—ALVIN A. TRUYA,
spokesperson, Strategic Alliance of Volunteers for the Environment in Leyte, Barangay San Isidro,
Baybay, Leyte

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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Bush fails to ease concerns over Iraq plan

WASHINGTON—President George W. Bush said Wednesday he would state the US case against Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein to the United Nations next week but did not ease international concerns about military action.

As European allies voiced opposition to unilateral US action and Arab states urged quick efforts to avert an attack, Bush pledged to seek the US Congress's approval for any military move to oust the Iraqi president.

Invoking the "threat" posed by Saddam, Bush said he would meet this weekend with British Prime Minister Tony Blair, his closest ally in the campaign against Iraq, and also confer by telephone with the leaders of China, France and Russia.

Bush said he would make his Iraq policy clear to world leaders in a Sept. 12 speech to the UN General Assembly in New York.

"I will first remind the United Nations that for 11 long years Saddam Hussein has sidestepped, crawfished, weaseled out of any agreement he had made not to develop weapons of mass destruction, agreements he's made to treat the people within his country with respect," he said.

"I'm going to call upon the world to recognize that he is stiffing the world, and I will lay out and I will talk about ways to make sure that he fulfills his obligations," Bush added.

Bush spoke after meeting with congressional leaders from the Republican and Democratic parties at the White House to discuss his Iraq strategy.

"Doing nothing about that threat is not an option for the United States," he said, adding that he would, at an "appropriate time," ask lawmakers for permission to launch a military campaign against Iraq if he decides it is needed.

"Saddam Hussein is a serious threat," Bush insisted to reporters after the White House meeting.

Democratic Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle indicated that he expected a resolution on military action against Iraq to be put to Congress before its current session ends on Oct. 5.

But Bush did not say if Congress would get a veto, which will not help the US campaign to allay European fears over the crisis.

US military equipment, including tracked combat vehicles, was due to be shipped to Kuwait this week for a US Army exercise involving more than 2,000 US troops, military officials said.

Pentagon spokesperson Lieutenant Colonel David Lapan said the latest shipment was part of a "normal rotation of forces going to Kuwait." He said the equipment was for Operation Desert Spring, a months-long training exercise involving more than 2,000 troops.

As Washington politicians sparred over whether there was enough evidence to accuse Iraq of supporting terrorist networks, a group of victims of the Sept. 11 attacks filed a lawsuit in US District Court in Manhattan, charging that the Iraqi government had advance knowledge Osama bin Laden was targeting the Pentagon, the White House and New York City. *AFP*

US faces huge task in war on terror funds

By Jonathan Nicholson

WASHINGTON—Arriving in small groups, using mail boxes for addresses and opening bank accounts with cash, the al-Qaida hijackers attracted little attention in the United States before Sept. 11.

They wrote few checks and there were no rent, utilities or car payments to track, government analysts have found.

But their ultimate act, killing thousands of people in New York, Washington and Pennsylvania, prompted US authorities to launch an unprecedented assault on terror financing to choke off the flow of money to militant groups, including al-Qaida, which it blames for the attacks.

As the Sept. 11 anniversary nears, Treasury officials acknowledge a worrisome fact: stopping the thousands of dollars needed to finance an attack in the midst of a $10 trillion economy is nearly impossible.

The entire Sept. 11 operation has been pegged as costing about $500,000, while the cost of the 2000 attack on the Navy warship USS Cole has been estimated as low as $10,000.

In an August appearance on Capitol Hill, Deputy Treasury Secretary Ken Dam noted al-Qaida's expenses are now lower without having to finance the Taliban in Afghanistan or run training camps.

He said there was no reason to believe the group did not have enough money to carry out a substantial number of attacks in the future.

The Treasury's main weapon has been a wide-ranging presidential order issued Sept. 23 that gave its Office of Foreign Assets Control (Ofac) the power to block the US assets of designated "global terrorists," as well as those of entities or individuals believed to be aiding them.

The order, which has resulted in around 200 individuals, groups and businesses being listed as "terror financiers" and blocked more than $100 million in assets globally, was aimed at wringing terror money from the banking system here and abroad.

First step

But observers say that was only the first step.

Thomas Sanderson, deputy director with the Center for Strategic and International Studies' Transnational Threats Center in Washington, compared it to "squeezing a balloon."

"You're never reducing the amount of air in the balloon. You're just moving it around," he said.

Jimmy Gurule, the Treasury Department's under secretary for enforcement, said efforts to cut the flow of terror funding may not stop all attacks.

But they can help stop the use of a weapon of mass destruction, such as a dirty bomb, biological agent or nuclear device.

"We certainly want to prevent that type of terrorist attack. We believe that there are significant financial resources associated with such an attack," he said in an interview.

The list also has a deterrent effect on potential donors that should not be underestimated, Gurule said.

But if banks are made off-limits, experts say terrorists will turn to the Arab hawala system of transferring money through unregulated brokers or traffic in precious gems.

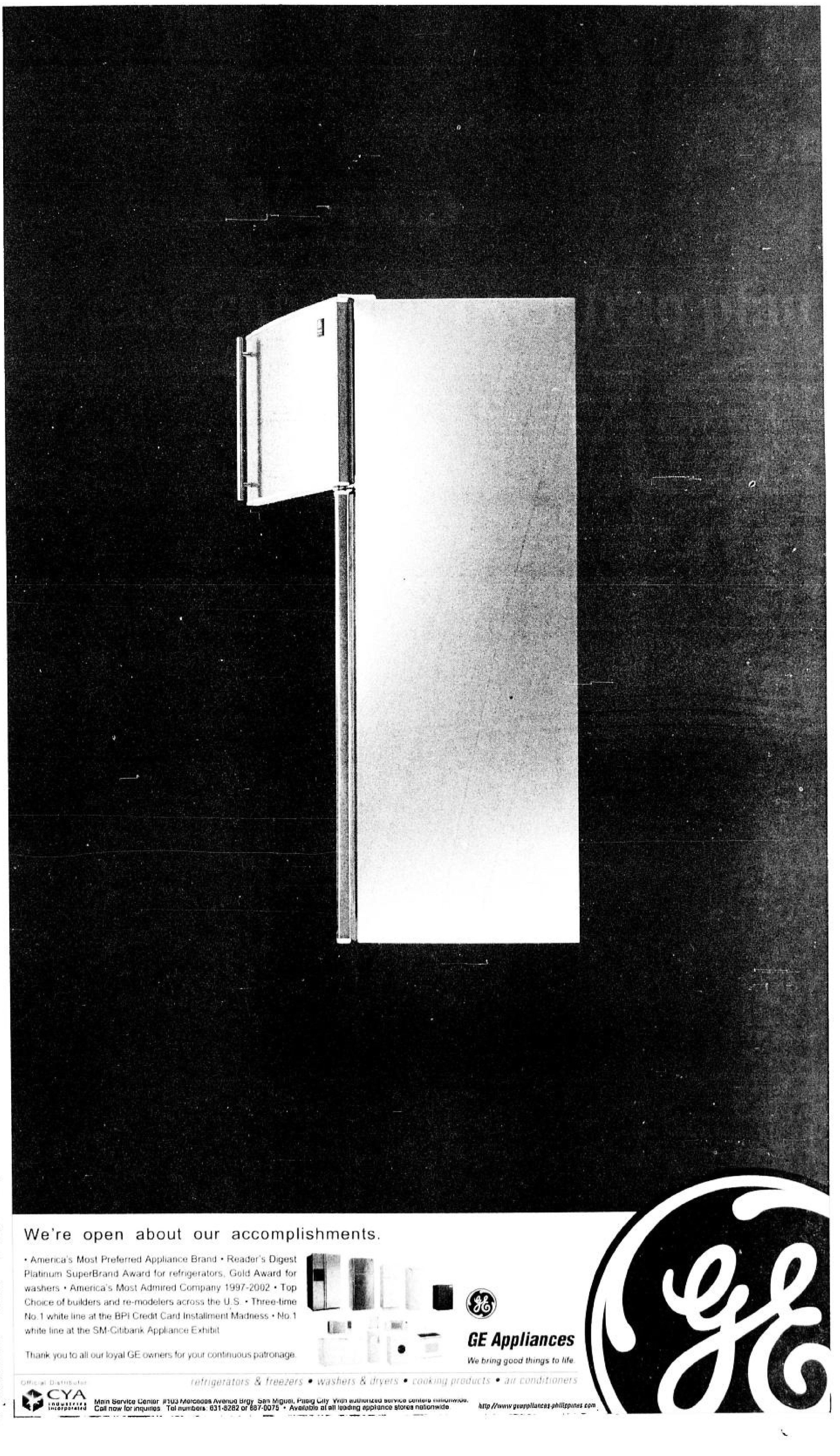
Gurule said tracking such informal transfers of cash presents an enormous challenge. But even hawala dealers in the United States must eventually use a bank.

"He's going to take that money and deposit it in a bank. He's not going to stuff it under a mattress," he said.

The US approach has met with resistance, however. By freezing assets without a court proceeding, the Ofac list, and its use by other countries, has raised questions over civil liberties, particularly among European allies.

A draft UN report last week criticized the international effort to freeze al-Qaida's assets as sloppy and uncoordinated. Treasury said the report was "limited in scope."

Another prong in the strategy is the PATRIOT Act anti-terror bill enacted last year that widened reporting requirements for financial services firms. Under the law, it should be tougher to move large sums of money under the government's radar. However, the approach has its doubters. *Reuters*



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Peace with Palestinians now looks possible–Sharon

JERUSALEM—Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said on Wednesday that peace with the Palestinians seemed possible for the first time because they were tiring of violence.

A senior Palestinian official called Sharon's remark

"nonsense," saying any diplomatic breakthrough was being thwarted by Israel's harsh military clampdown on Palestinian cities in response to the uprising for independence.

The atmosphere was soured further by Israel's deportation of the brother and sister of a Palestinian militant from their West Bank homes under a policy it said would deter suicide bombers but which Yasser Arafat called a "crime against humanity."

Danish Foreign Minister Per Stig Moeller criticized the expulsions as "collective punishment" unhelpful to diplomacy before he met Sharon to present a new European Union initiative for Middle East peace.

Sharon was asked in a Jewish New Year interview on Israeli television whether there was any hope for fresh peace talks after 23 months of violence that has killed over 2,000 people.

"Now, for the first time, I see the possibility for a breakthrough for a political arrangement. It won't be a simple thing or an easy thing, but there is a possibility," he said.

On Monday, Palestinian Interior Minister Abdel-Razzak al-Yahya called on Palestinians to switch to peaceful resistance in their uprising, saying militant violence against Israelis had proved counter-productive. But militants rejected his appeal.

Asked whom Israel could negotiate with after it had accused Palestinian President Yasser Arafat of sponsoring suicide bombings, which he denies, and declared him "irrelevant," Sharon said: "With Palestinians who have reached the conclusion that with terror they can't achieve anything."

Sharon did not elaborate in excerpts of the television interview which was to be aired in full later on Wednesday. *Reuters*

POT SHOT AP

A young woman smokes a marijuana cigarette down the street from the Parliament buildings in Ottawa, Canada, Sept. 4. A senate committee report has recommended Wednesday that Canada legalize the use of marijuana.

Colombia war forces 2.7 M to flee homes

BOGOTA, Colombia—Colombia's raging guerrilla war has forced 2.7 million people from their homes, a leading human rights group said on Wednesday in a report that blamed an upsurge of war refugees on the collapse of peace talks.

In the first six months of this year, 204,000 people—mostly poor peasants caught in the cross-fire of a 38-year old war—have fled their homes, according to Consultant for Human Rights and the Displaced, known in Spanish as Codhes.

Last year, 300,000 people fled their homes, Codhes said.

Peace talks between the government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia—Colombia's largest guerrilla army—broke down in February.

Colombia's war pits Marxist rebels against far-right paramilitary outlaws and the state security forces. The war, increasingly fought over territorial control of arms-for-cocaine supply routes, claimed the lives of 3,500 civilians last year.

Codhes blamed paramilitaries for creating 52 percent of all war refugees, followed by rebel groups, 43 percent, and the US-backed army, responsible for 1 percent of refugees. *Reuters*

Earth Summit winds down

JOHANNESBURG—The marathon Earth Summit ended on Wednesday with green campaigners heckling US

Secretary of State Colin Powell and decrying the outcome as a major letdown for the poor and the planet.

South Africa's pride at successfully hosting the biggest international event in its history was a striking contrast with the mood of gloom that descended on environmentalists.

At a closing session in Johannesburg, speaker after speaker attacked as too weak a plan meant to tackle global problems from AIDS to depleted fish stocks. In formally agreeing the text, delegates of almost 200 nations applauded for just 10 seconds.

"We should never have such shameful summits again," said Ricardo Navarro, chairman of Friends of the Earth International.

"We feel anger and despair because world leaders have sold out to the World Trade Organization and big business. They have done nothing for the poor."

The summit close was delayed by almost two hours of wrangling over how to refer to Palestinian territory, HIV-AIDS and other controvetsial issues in a separate political document, the "Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development."

In his speech to the summit, Powell bore the brunt of widespread anger against US President George W. Bush, one of the few major world leaders who did not attend.

Hecklers chanting "Shame on Bush" twice interrupted Powell as he defended US policies against criticism that the world's richest country and biggest polluter did not care.

"Betrayed by governments", read a banner held up by the mainly American protesters.

But the hosts, South African President Thabo Mbeki and UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, both said expectations had been too high.

"It's obvious that not everybody would be happy with the outcome. The critical issue of course is what happens after this," Mbeki told a closing news conference.

South African satisfaction was palpable after hosting 45,000 delegates and participants without any major security or criminal incident. *Reuters*

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Friday, September 6, 2002
22nd Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: 1 Cor 4:1-5
Gospel: Lk 5:33-39

The scribes and Pharisees asked Jesus, "The disciples of John fast often and say long prayers, and so do the disciples of the Pharisees. Why is it that your disciples eat and drink?" Then Jesus said to them, "You can't make wedding guests fast while the bridegroom is with them. But later the bridegroom will be taken from them and they will fast in those days."

Jesus also told them this parable, "No one tears a piece from a new coat to put it on an old one; otherwise the new will be torn and the piece taken from the new will not match the old. No one puts new wine into old wineskins; otherwise the new wine will burst the skins and be spilled, and the skins will be destroyed as well. But new wine must be put into fresh skins. Yet no one who has tasted old wine is eager to get new wine, but says: The old is good."

Commentary

The Lord had been preaching that the messianic times were already inaugurated in him. He taught and did all things well and with authority. Fasting and praying were two of the three pillars of Jewish piety which people did in the belief that they would help usher in the messianic times. If in Jesus such times are already here, a new way of being and relating is thus possible. In fact, right before this passage, Luke narrates the call of Levi to discipleship, drawing him out from his old life of marginalization to the very circle of a new reality. If we need to fast and pray, it is when we revert back to our old life devoid of meaning not only for ourselves but also for others.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

REMEDIAL LAW (CIVIL PROCEDURE)—Execution of a judgment—As a general rule, the execution of a judgment should not be had until and unless the judgment has become final and executory i.e., the period of appeal has lapsed without an appeal having been taken, or appeal having been taken, the appeal has been resolved and the records of the case have been returned to the court of origin, in which event, execution "shall issue as a matter of right." Execution pending appeal in accordance with Section 2 of Rule 39 of the Rules of Court is, therefore, the exception. The requisites for the grant of a motion for execution pending appeal are: (a) there must be a motion by the prevailing party with notice to the adverse party; (b) there must be a good reason for execution pending appeal; and (c) the good reason must be stated in the special order. Being an exception to the general rule, the requisites of execution pending appeal must, therefore, be strictly construed. Thus, anent the requisite that there must be good reason justifying the execution of the judgement pending appeal, the Court has consistently held that such good reason must continue superior circumstances demanding urgency which will outweigh the injury or damage should the losing party secure a reversal of the judgment. Beyond the guideline set by jurisprudence, however, statute does not determine, enumerate, or give examples of what may be considered good reasons to justify execution pending appeal. [Citations omitted.] [Justice De Leon, Jr., Second Division, Fortune Guarantee and Insurance Corporation v. Court of Appeals, G.R. No. 110701, March 12, 2002]

DIGEST BY R. B. VERA

Hero cockatoo may become star witness in trial

DALLAS—A hero cockatoo slain trying to protect its master from knife-wielding assailants may prove the star witness in the trial of its owner's suspected killers.

Dallas prosecutors showed a grand jury on Wednesday DNA evidence from blood samples found at the scene they say links two men arrested in the case to the home of the bird's owner.

The blood apparently came from a wound the bird pecked on the head of one of the suspects, said prosecutor George West.

West expects to receive an indictment this week on capital murder for the suspects Johnny Serna, 22, and Daniel Torres, 30, for allegedly killing Kevin Butler last December over a dispute about money.

According to evidence presented to the grand jury, the two suspects allegedly broke into Butler's home. During a violent struggle in Butler's living room, the white-crested cockatoo named Bird after basketball great Larry Bird, swooped down on the attackers and clawed at their skin and pecked at their heads, West said.

"Bird was valiant," West said.

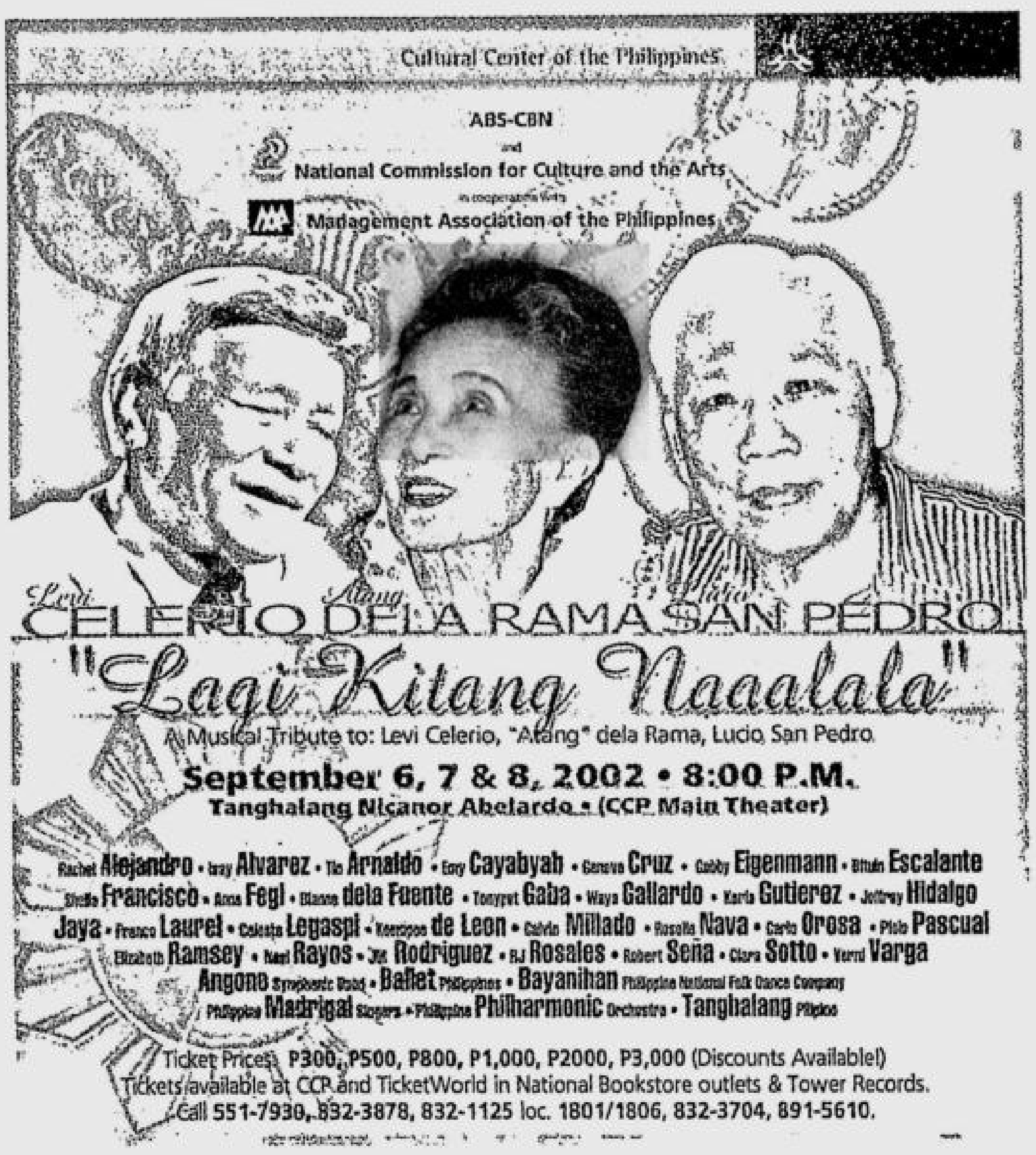
Bird apparently wounded Torres, but the protective member of the parrot family paid the price for trying to take on two armed foes. Bird has its leg cut off and was found dead in the kitchen of Butler's home—apparently stabbed to death by a fork in the back.

West said the two suspects, who had been arrested on suspicion of capital murder, denied any involvement in the crime until DNA results of the blood samples came back in July and allegedly placed Torres at the scene of the crime. But police told the court one of the suspects confessed when faced with the DNA evidence.

West said the bird's beak and claws have been checked for blood in a search for additional DNA evidence. Results should come back in about two weeks.

"In my 22 years on the job, I've never seen anything like this," West said. "They did an autopsy on the bird and I never heard of that either. Both of them (Butler and the bird) were brought in on stretchers."

A white-crested cockatoo stands about 18 inches to 20 inches (46 cm to 51 cm) tall and has a beak powerful enough to snap thin tree branches, said Carol Highfill, who runs an Internet site devoted to bird owners. *Reuters*



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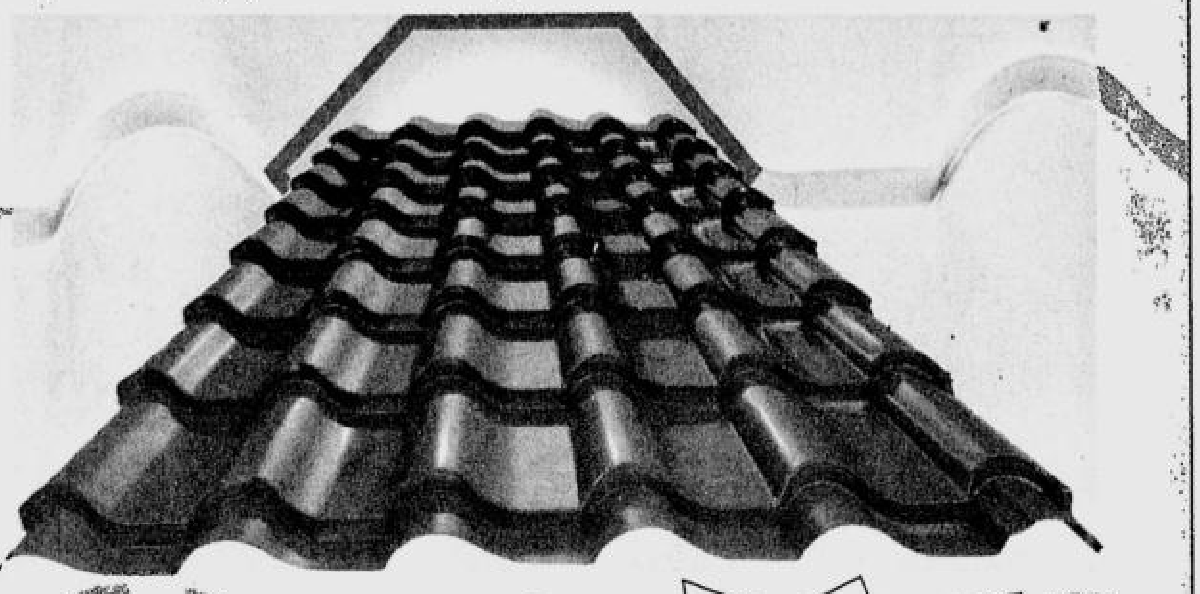

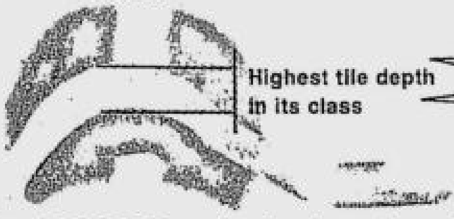

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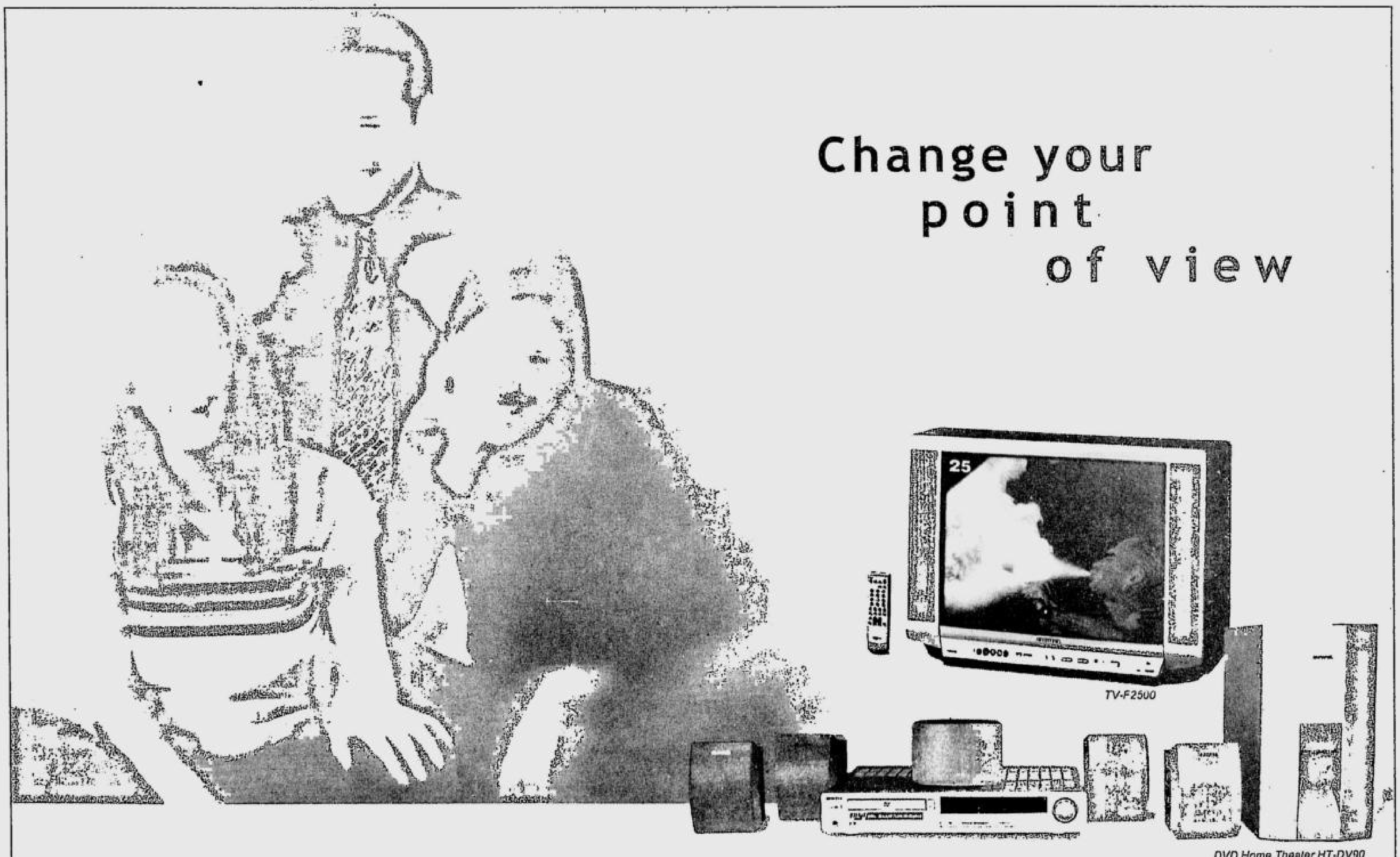

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25 Years

That old adage, "Home is where the heart is, home is sanctuary" – has been the long-standing philosophy of BLIMS. This year, BLIMS commemorates its 25th Anniversary – a great milestone that bespeaks of the company's commitment in helping transform Filipino houses into homes, through world-class quality furniture. BLIMS Executive Vice-President Carrie Lim says: "We have always believed that the family is the cornerstone of society, so by helping Filipino families to make their home a lovelier place where values and dreams are formed, we are able to lend a helping hand in nation-building."

THE LEGACY OF BLIMS actually traces its roots beyond 25 years, dating as far back as the 1890s when the forefathers of Chairman Benito Lim opened furniture stores in Manila. The business was halted by World War II and re-started in 1977 as BLIMS Fine Furniture. Today, BLIMS Fine Furniture is easily accessible through a chain of showroom stores nationwide. The flagship store is located at Ayala Avenue, right in the heart of Makati Business District. Other BLIMS showrooms are located in Greenbelt 1, Glorietta, Robinsons Galleria, Festival Mall, Alabang Town Center, SM Southmall, Robinsons Place Manila, SM North EDSA, Robinsons Place Novaliches, and Ayala Center Cebu.

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In keeping up with their tradition of excellence and quality, BLIMS continues to redefine the concept of comfortable living by offering world-class brands.

SIMMONS, originating in New York, is now in 37 countries including the Philippines. It is known not only for its mattresses but also for its upholstery line of armchairs, loveseats and sofas as well as its sofa beds that are often referred to as the "Hide-A-Bed," the registered trademark famous worldwide.

SOUTHSHORE is a cozy bedroom collection fashioned with quality elegance and style. It also has a cabinet wardrobe line and other entertainment centerpieces that are crafted using state-of-the-art equipment to meet international environment standards.

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Innovation and Service Distinction

BLIMS has successfully launched the "many firsts" in the industry. It revolutionized the furniture retailing by creating the one-stop shop concept and the ready-to-use (RTU) and ready-to-deliver (RTD) furniture for home and office. BLIMS pioneered the "designer collection and branded" furniture concept in the 80s. In 1993, BLIMS opened its first "Office World" department as the first complete one-stop shop for office furniture. BLIMS was also the first to offer customers free professional interior design consultations. The rationale for this service stems from the understanding that customers need professional assistance in making the right choice for a specific piece of furniture. Furthermore, BLIMS initiated the "Zero Interest, Zero Downpayment" installment scheme for those who want to own furniture using their credit cards. The special customer care service all the more endeared BLIMS to its clients. "It is easy to get dazzled by the fine array of merchandise we have in our showroom, so we have to make sure that clients pick something that would perfectly match and blend with the pieces that they already have at home," says Connie Cruz, Merchandising Manager. For ease of acquisition, BLIMS started offering "Lay-Away" plans for those who want to own their dream furniture without using credit cards.

Recently, BLIMS has also partnered with Creative Training and Review Center (CTRC), an organization composed of former deans of interior design schools headed by seasoned Interior Designers Belen Sablan-Morey and Cynthia P. Belleza. The partnership aims to nurture and prepare young, talented and future world-class designers by offering Interior Design review classes in preparation for their licensure exam. Lectures are coupled with hands-on training at the BLIMS flagship store at Ayala Avenue, in Makati City. Truly, the objective of this partnership differentiates BLIMS from its competitors.

25th Anniversary Specials

To celebrate its anniversary, BLIMS has a line-up of special activities for the year, kicking-off with a Silver Special 50% discount on the second item purchased. These events aim to show the company's gratitude to their loyal customers who have supported BLIMS throughout the 25 years.

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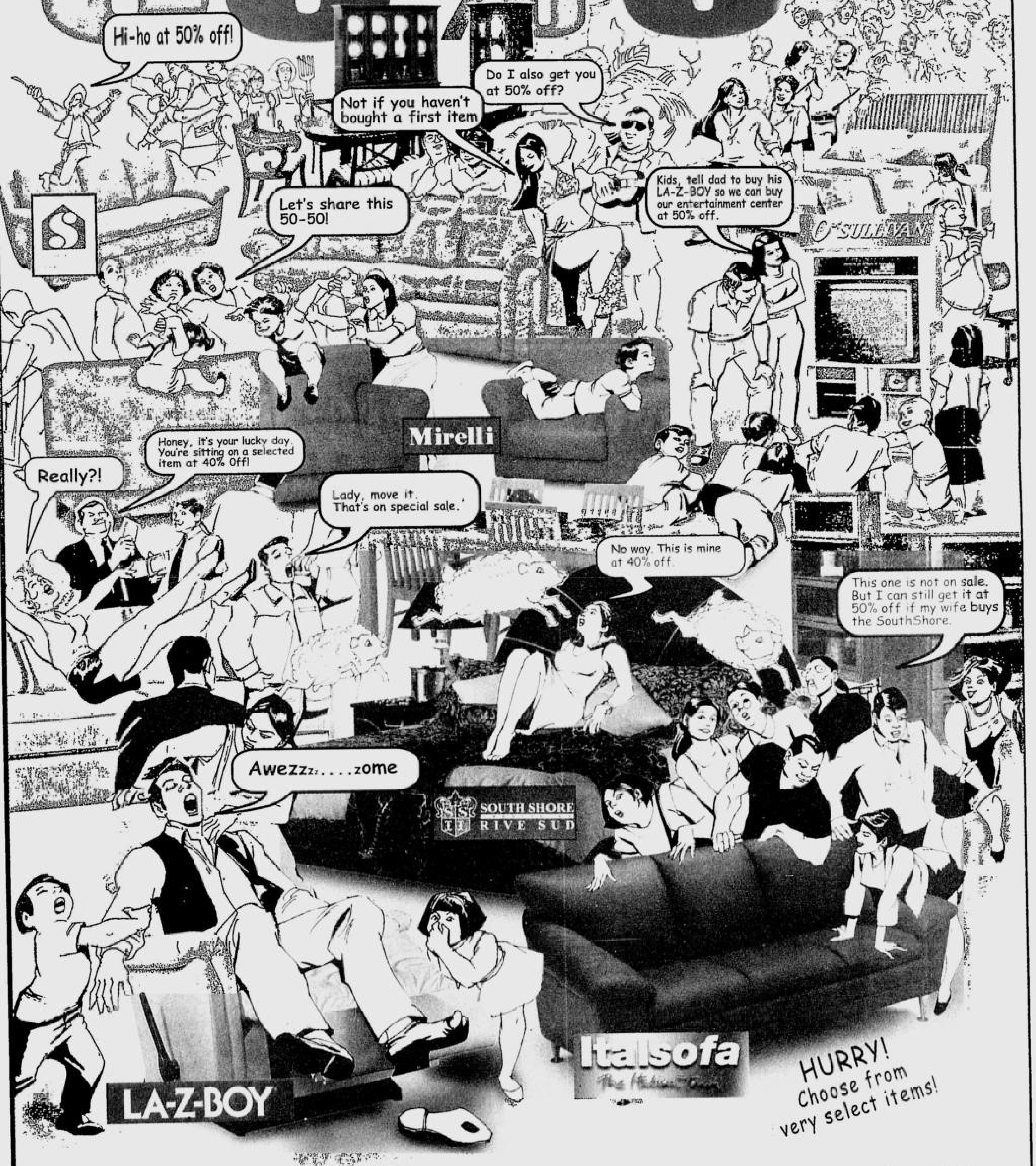
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Silvano oblong coffee table SA-427	17,500	10,495	40%
Silvano round end table SA-426	12,490	7,495	40%
Silvano console table SA-424	14,990	8,995	40%
Torino dining set for 6	28,600	19,995	30%

DESCRIPTION	SRP	SALE	DISC
Torino bedroom set	29,200	17,500	40%
Kremlin sofa set leatherette	25,500	15,300	40%
Jamie sofa set fabric	28,750	17,250	40%
ITALSOFA Napoli genuine leather sofa set w/ (1) 3-seater (1) 2-seater	77,850	54,495	30%
MIRELLI Cleo genuine leather sofa set w/ (1) 3-seater (1) 2-seater	76,680	57,500	25%

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Adv

Britain accused of trampling on rights of terror suspects

LONDON—Britain has used emergency laws to ride roughshod over the human rights of terror suspects in the aftermath of the Sept. 11 attacks on New York and Washington, Amnesty International said on Thursday.

The human rights watchdog said in a report entitled "Rights denied: The UK's response to 11 September 2001" that detainees at Belmarsh high security prison were locked up for all but two hours a day and denied proper health care and legal help.

"The regime under which detainees are held can lead to serious physical and mental deterioration . . . which in turn could undermine their capacity to prepare their defense," Amnesty researcher Livio Zilli said.

He said that as of mid-July none of the detainees under the Anti-terrorism, Crime and Security Act (ATCSA) had even been interviewed by British officials.

"The defense of human rights begins at home," Zilli said.

"The UK authorities' real commitment to human rights is now being put to the test." The 11 Muslims who have been detained since the anti-terror law was rushed onto the statute books late last year have been denied access to an Imam and had their worship time curtailed, Amnesty said.

It said the classification of the detainees as "suspected international terrorists" was based on secret information that had never been revealed to the detainees themselves and which therefore was virtually impossible to challenge.

The organization highlighted the case of Algerian Lotfi Raissi who was arrested near London on Sept. 21 after being indicted by a federal grand jury in the United States on suspicion of helping train the Sept. 11 hijackers to fly.

He was held for five months in Belmarsh before being released on bail. *Reuters*

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10:00 A.M. - 8:00 P.M.

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Schedule of Special Events

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

10:00 A.M. - 12:00 NN
Function Rms. A & B
"Film Showing of Classic Teacher-Oriented Movies"
Diwa Learning Systems Inc.

10:00 A.M.
Goodwill Bookstore Pavilion
"Money Matters! Career, Business & Money Management tips for everyday use."

1:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M./Function Rm. B
Seminar/Workshop for Preschool
"Shared Reading: An Approach to Literacy"
Belgosa Bookstores Inc.

1:30 P.M. - 4:30 P.M./Function Rm. A
"Forum: Cycle Time Management"
Speaker: Mr. Dindo M. Salumba
Association of Special Libraries of the Philippines (ASLP)

4:30 P.M. - 6:30 P.M./Function Rm. B
Product Presentation
"Electronic Databases and Resource Centers for the Modern Library"
Thomson Learning

6:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M./Function Rm. A
"Launch of Jonathan Chua's The Critical Villa"
Ateneo de Manila University Press

7:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M./Function Rm. B
Philippine Bookfair Fellowship Night
(by invitation)

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

10:00 A.M.
Goodwill Bookstore Pavilion
"Knowledge Power! A Quiz Show"

10:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M./Function Rm. A
"The Magical Bridge to Reading and Writing: A Seminar-Workshop for Primary Grade Teachers"
Seminar Fee: P700.00/participant
By Ms. Maricar Gustilo de Ocampo
Education Consultant

10:30 A.M. - 12:00 NN/Function Rm. B
"Celebrity Storytelling by Ms. Christine Jacob-Sandejas"
Parents Magazine and Belgosa Bookstores Inc.

2:30 P.M. - 3:30 P.M./Function Rm. B
"Philippine Robotics Society Induction of Officers"
Felta Multi-Media Inc.

4:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M./Function Rm. A
Book Launching
"Chess Simul with Grand Master Eugene Torre"
Active Chess Center of Asia and Belgosa Bookstores Inc.

4:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M./Function Rm. B
"Book Launching"
UST Publishing House

6:30 P.M. - 8:30 P.M./Function Rm. B
"Book Launching"
Adarna House

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

10:00 A.M.
Goodwill Bookstore Pavilion
"Kiddie Fun Day Sunday! Featuring the Berenstein Bears Meet and Greet plus other mascots!"

5:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M./Function Rm. B
"Got 2 Believe (...In the Pinoy Writer)"
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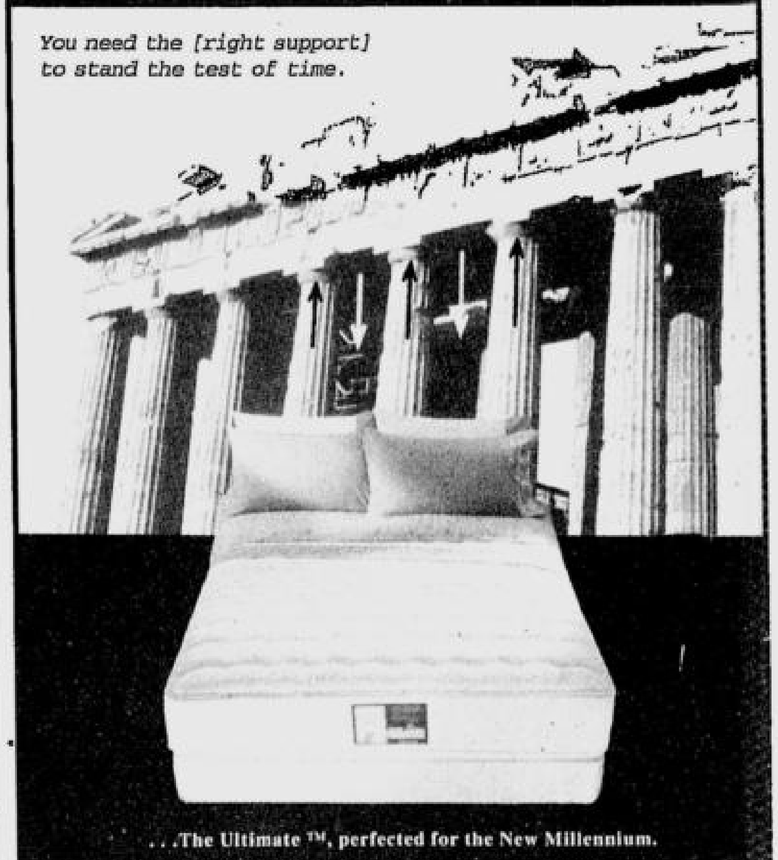

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Muslim-women-only gym creates furor in Australia

By Michael Christie

SYDNEY—A gym in Sydney meant only for Muslim women is sharpening the divide between Australia's Anglo-Celtic mainstream and the Islamic minority.

The tiny, second-floor gym in a suburb with a high ethnic minority population has been granted an exemption from anti-discrimination laws on grounds that Muslim women suffer high levels of diabetes, cholesterol and obesity.

Muslim women also have certain dress code requirements, prayer needs and sensitivities about undressing before non-Muslims that cannot be satisfied by the 499 or so other health clubs around Australia's largest city.

But none of those arguments used by the New South Wales state Anti-Discrimination Board to justify the exemption seem to wash with the majority as a fury over the gym pours forth from newspaper letters pages and right-wing "shock jock" radio shows.

"If Muslims are allowed to discriminate against Australians and Christians in this way, what will be next?" asked a C. Power in a letter to Sydney tabloid The Daily Telegraph.

In an unscientific phone-in survey conducted by the conservative newspaper, 98 percent of 482 people who took part said the gym discriminated against others in the community.

"We have meekly discarded Christian customs in this country to accommodate Muslims and others. Christmas carols and plays in our schools are a thing of the past. Enough is enough," wrote another letter writer, K.E. Hudson.

The gym, "Soul Fitness," has been open for around four months in the district of Punchbowl, where an estimated 13 percent of the population is Muslim.

It has around 350 members, but consists of a single room with a scattering of exercise machines and is protected by a locked door and buzzer. No men or non-Muslims are allowed inside.

"Who is disadvantaged?" asked New South Wales anti-discrimination commissioner Chris Puplick.

"The answer is nobody is disadvantaged because it's not as if something is being taken away, it wasn't as if this gym existed and it said to all of its non-Muslim members 'now bugger off'."

"And nobody is denied access to the other 499 gyms around the place," Puplick said.

But that logic seems to have struck a reef that some local academics refer to as a growing "Islamaphobia" and others compare ominously to 19th Century Eastern European anti-Semitism.

The September 11 attacks by Islamic militants on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon in the United States have fed anti-Muslim sentiment in Australia, as they have in other Western countries.

Discrimination against Muslims has increased sharply, anti-racism officials and campaigners say. Most cases of harassment go unreported because the Islamic community fears complaining too loudly will only increase the backlash.

Cowed by the ferocious public reaction, the owners of the Muslim women's gym did not wish to be interviewed.

Yet September 11 was merely a catalyst for rumblings that were already rising as the numbers of illegal immigrants of Islamic background increased, and the government responded by slamming shut Australia's doors to boatpeople.

In the year since, Sydney has been rocked by the conviction of Lebanese Australian youths for gang raping white Australian girls in a crime colored by racial taunts against the victims.

More recently, public attention has focused on a woman in Nigeria sentenced by an Islamic court to death by stoning for bearing a child out of wedlock. The Abu Sayyaf Muslim guerrillas of the Philippines are guaranteed coverage every time they behead a hostage.

It is hard for the average Australian to equate Islam with anything other than mass terrorism, brutal crimes and barbaric social beliefs and practices, and assertions that Islam is a peace-loving religion fall on deaf or incredulous ears.

"The knife is sharpened, the usual butchers prepare for the slaughter and again the victim is Islam and Australian Muslims," said Keysar Trad of the Lebanese Muslim Association.

It does not help that many defenders of Islam in Australia, like Trad, support the death sentence against the Nigerian woman.

It was only 40 years ago that Australia officially pursued a policy to keep its population white.

Asian immigration has dramatically changed the face of the island continent of 20 million in the last few decades.

But the search for a national identity, 100 years after a collection of British colonies agreed to form a nation, is still influenced by the White Australia policy, experts say.

"Like it or not there is within the Australian psycho-social debate a very profound assimilationist streak," said Puplick. *Reuters*

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'Vultures' prey on displaced Filipinos

DENNIS SABANGAN

COMING home is not so sweet an ordeal for Filipinos who were deported from Sabah. Their sufferings did not end in the hands of abusive Malaysian authorities but continued in the hands of their countrymen.

Repatriates victimized by con men in Tawi-Tawi

BONGAO, Tawi-Tawi—Their ordeal did not end when they left Sabah, Malaysia.

For Hadja Hania Aliakbar, provincial social welfare and development officer, the Filipinos who were booted out of Malaysia have found another enemy: their fellow Filipinos.

Aliakbar called these new "enemies" as opportunists and vultures moving around the four processing centers where the repatriates are temporarily staying.

Aliakbar said she learned from local barangay officials that illegal recruiters and suspicious-looking individuals roam around the processing centers in Barangays Pasiagan, Pahot, Kasulutan and Pag-asa here "hoping to get young women for their wives, helpers or to (recruit them to) work back in Malaysia."

The centers are where the repatriates register before they are sent to their places of origin.

There were even reports that two babies were sold at the Bongao public market.

"We are trying to verify this (report), but what I heard was that those women deportees allegedly sold the babies, with prices ranging from P200 to P300. Probably, it's not their children."

Even GMA 7's Bisig Bayan stickers were used by these so-called vultures.

When Bisig Bayan staffers distributed relief goods for the repatriates, they also gave away stickers, which landed in the hands of bystanders.

Some of the bystanders sold these stickers to the repatriates at 10 to 15 ringgits each, saying that these were claim stubs for relief goods.

"Marami talagang mga gago at mapagsamantala ngayon, kasi alam nila na mga no read no write ang mga taong ito (There are really a lot of stupid people who are opportunists because they know that these deportees don't know how to read or write)," Addoh Malik, a tricycle driver, said.

But these Filipino opportunists abound not only Bongao.

Barbangsa Jalaide, a social worker, said even in Sandakan, Malaysian police tapped Filipinos to become their "fixers."

Jalaide said during the sending home of Filipinos on Aug. 25, Malaysian police at the Sandakan New Port used Filipino fixers to collect 30 ringgits per person before they were allowed to board the Navy boats.

When Capt. Bert Suria, captain of the naval ship BRP Dagupan learned about it, he instructed Jalaide to announce to the Filipinos that it was free to take the Navy boat. *Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Probe sought of judge who reversed convictions

BAGUIO CITY—The Integrated Bar of the Philippines asked Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. last week to investigate an executive judge of Ifugao, who overturned the murder conviction of a rebel returnee and three militiamen on the basis of a suspect's retraction.

The 1996 convictions were not implemented because the accused had been released as the trial proceeded, according to lawyer Jose Molintas, a human rights lawyer helping the IBP Baguio-Benguet chapter's legal aid committee.

The Baguio and Benguet lawyers are representing Susan Aniban, a member of the Task Force Detainees of the Philippines (TFDP), whose brother, Jesus Jr., was gunned down on Aug. 26, 1988 in his home.

Juan Vinluan, Martin Arqueza and Jose Pacis, members of the defunct Civilian Home Defense Unit, were sentenced to life imprisonment by Judge Segundo Catral on April 5, 1996. Another suspect, rebel returnee Jesus Doro, is still at large.

But the convictions were reversed when the Ifugao executive judge allowed a new trial, where he "appeared to have acted as counsel for the accused," Molintas said in an Aug. 26 letter to Davide.

The IBP petition asked Davide to direct a special audit of the records of the case at the regional trial court of Lagawe, Ifugao.

Molintas said the new trial, which the executive judge had allowed, was anchored on improperly filed motions. He said the new trial relied on a different testimony from Pacis, who accused a soldier of the 48th Infantry Battalion as the man who shot Aniban.

Pacis had previously "testified and denied any participation in the case."

But his new testimony resulted in the reversal of their murder convictions.

Molintas said the Ifugao executive judge allowed the "temporary release of the accused even after their conviction (for) the heinous crime of murder."

Molintas also pointed out alleged breaches of ethics, when the judge relinquished the new trial to Judge Fernando Flor Jr. after he inhibited himself in 1999 over questions about the release of Pacis, Arqueza and Vinluan. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Student, school tiff turns into rights issue

DAVAO CITY—The Ateneo de Davao University has refused admission to a student leader whom it considers detrimental to the school.

Edgie Francis Uyanguren said the refusal was a repression of his rights, academic freedom and the right to education when he was refused readmission at the Ateneo when he enrolled for a second course.

But Ateneo de Davao president Edmundo Martinez rebuffed Uyanguren's accusations that his rights were violated.

"Far from violating his rights, his insistence to be accepted into the Ateneo for a second degree seeks to violate the rights of the school and of the other students, as though academic freedom were his sole prerogative," Martinez said.

Martinez said the reasons why Uyanguren was refused re-admission to the university "is because he manifests the use of talent and of leadership potentials that is so contrary to what the Ateneo seeks to develop in its students."

"The Ateneo seeks to develop leaders who will truly serve this country and our fellowmen, and Mr. Uyanguren, so far, represents a type of leadership that the Ateneo repudiates," he said.

"It is a leadership that is not respectful of the truth, that pursues its cause to the disregard of the greater good, that promotes that cause by means that violate the rights of others—this is the kind of leadership that a school like the Ateneo de Davao cannot tolerate. For this is the kind of leadership that has been the cause of so much backwardness and pain and disaster for our nation," he said in a statement.

Uyanguren said he has been a good student.

"Until now I could hardly remember being notorious. I have been. . .carrying with me the Ateneo values of being "men for others," he said.

"As Samahan president, I have brought honor and pride to the Ateneo, being the only representative from Mindanao during the Senate committee hearing on the abolition of the ROTC held in Cebu last July 2001," he said. *Ayan C. Mellejor, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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Pro-Clark groups keep tabs on Piatco fiasco

ANGELES CITY—Two groups advocating the full operation of the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport (DMIA) in the nearby Clark Special Economic Zone are closely watching how the government was rectifying the controversial contract of the Philippine International Air Terminals Co. Inc. (Piatco) for the NAIA 3 terminal project.

"Our struggle is not over yet," said Angeles City Councilor Alex Cauguiran, also the spokesperson of the Move Clark Now based in this city.

Cauguiran said the battle of the MCN and the Pinoy Gumising Ka Movement in the streets and in the courts to have the Piatco contract terminated was "only half-won."

They made the statement after President Macapagal-Arroyo declared last week that the contract was "onerous."

Last April, Piatco agreed to waive the contract's restrictive provisions that have a bearing on the future of the DMIA.

The provisions stop the DMIA from developing its passenger and cargo terminals and increasing the volume of its passengers until after Terminal 3 of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport reaches its passenger quota of 10 million in three consecutive years.

The same provisions apply to other airports in Central and Northern Luzon. These were inserted in the amended contract sealed during the incumbency of ousted President Joseph Estrada, Cauguiran said.

Moises Tolentino, Piatco vice president for public affairs, on Tuesday repeated his firm's commitment to lift the exclusive provisions from the contract.

During the city council's session, Cauguiran and MCN and PGKM leaders urged city officials to stay vigilant, noting that the President has yet to declare a definite time frame for the full operation of the DMIA, which was named after the President's father.

The 2,500-hectare airport, fitted with two runways that are the longest in Asia and the Pacific, was one of the facilities left by the United States' 13th Air Force when the Senate ordered the closure of American bases in the country.

The Senate made the move after it rejected the extension of the 1947 Philippine-US Military Bases Agreement to another 50 years.

Former President Fidel Ramos, under whose term the original Piatco contract was signed, declared in 1997 the then Clark International Airport, later renamed as DMIA, as the country's new international gateway.

Cauguiran told the INQUIRER that the MCN and the PGKM felt "vindicated" about their opposition to the Piatco deal.

Since 1998, the two groups have been staging protest rallies and went as far as filing a taxpayers' class suit against the firm and transportation officials to have the contract cancelled. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

BAGUIO LANDMARK

TOOTS SOBERANO

A tree that appears to grow out of a rock on Kennon Road leading to Baguio City has become part of the Pine City's landmark, welcoming visitors and motorists to the country's mountain resort.

Napocor cuts off power to paper mill

BISLIG CITY—The National Power Corp. (Napocor) cut off the power supply of the Paper Industries Corp. of the Philippines (Picop) here after the company failed to settle its outstanding debt of more than P200 million.

And to worsen the woes of Southeast Asia's largest wood processor, the Surigao del Sur Electric Cooperative (Surseco II), which supplies power to Picop's other energy demands, announced that it, too, would cut off the firm from its power lines this week.

Surseco said Picop's electric bill has ballooned to P2.2 million and the company repeatedly failed to settle it.

As of Wednesday, the Napocor refused to reinstall PICOP's power unless the debt has been settled.

The INQUIRER learned that the wood processing firm's daily power consumption amounts to about P1 million.

Engineer Crispin Lamayan, Napocor northeastern area manager, said Picop had been warned of the power cut-off.

Picop officials said their newsprint production is in peril as a result of the power cut-off.

Engineer Marvin Marcojos, Picop vice president for mill services, said talks might last for a week, which means that they would not be producing newsprint within that period.

"We are in good terms with the Napocor. What we are trying to do is to sit down with them and ask how they can assist us," Marcojos said.

He said Picop wanted to reduce its debt from P200 million to P190 million.

Aside from being a major wood processor, Picop is also the country's largest manufacturer of paper products including newsprints.

When in full operation, Picop could produce 200 tons of newsprint per day.

But as power has yet to be restored, the company was forced to resort to power rationing. *Ma. Kristina E. Cassion, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

GSIS resumes processing of loans for teachers

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Swamped by appeals, the Government Service Insurance System on Monday lifted its suspension on loan applications, allowing more than 2,000 barangay high school teachers in Pampanga to avail of emergency funds.

Silvestre Lalas, GSIS Pampanga branch manager, also said the teachers were given no deadline in filing their emergency loan claims.

The GSIS suspended for the first time in five years its loan program on the heels of the Department of Education's failure to pay the government's share in the premiums of teachers.

Lalas said the suspension was cancelled after the GSIS and Department of Education accountants discovered last week that at least P28 million of employers' shares for 1997 and 1998 were remitted to the then Department of Education, Culture and Sports, instead to the DECS division of schools in Pampanga. The same division supervises the teachers from barangay high schools.

Lalas declined to specify who was responsible for the error.

"We have settled the matter and we don't want to blame anyone," he told the INQUIRER.

Vilma Labrador, DepEd director in Central Luzon, asked the GSIS to review the premium payments, and said the teachers should "not be made to suffer from a problem not of their own making."

Teachers asserted their right to avail themselves of loans, trooping to the GSIS to show records of updated salary deductions for their personal premiums.

On Labrador's request, the GSIS also began reviewing remittances of government shares for some 500 teachers belonging to the division of city schools in Angeles City. The division began settling its account, paying P1.2 million last week.

The review also covers the payment of government premiums for 500 teachers at the Pampanga High School, the biggest public high school in the province.

A GSIS report showed that two units of the Department of Public Works and Highways have yet to settle their unpaid government shares in 1997 and 1998 for the premiums of some 400 employees. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Suspected Pentagon gang member nabbed in GenSan

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—A suspected member of the Pentagon kidnap-for-ransom gang was arrested by the police in a raid conducted in New Society, Barangay Apopong on Tuesday here.

The suspect was identified as Alex Ampatuan alias Commander Alex, a resident of Maguindanao and one of the suspects in the 1998 kidnapping of Filipino-Chinese trader Pelsy Yaphuckon.

Police claimed that Ampatuan is a follower of slain Pentagon leader Faisal Marohombsar. Two other colleagues of Ampatuan were arrested, but their names were withheld pending the confirmation of their involvement with the kidnap gang.

The members of the raiding team scoured the area around Ampatuan's house after receiving intelligence reports that he had buried explosives in the area.

Their efforts finally paid off when they recovered a grenade case filled with what police suspect were explosives.

Members of the Special Weapons and Tactics (Swat) team and the Army's bomb disposal team refused to issue any statement on the device.

They said the recovered items have to be subjected for laboratory analysis before they know for sure what they are.

Ampatuan, however, claimed that they were just toys.

"It contained nothing but broken pieces of hollow blocks," he said.

Senior Insp. Ruel Berango, Swat team leader, told reporters here that Ampatuan's presence in the area had been monitored the past two months.

Meanwhile, Councilor Eduardo Boyet Leyson III, one of those implicated in the diagram showing the connections of the Pentagon gang, lambasted police officials who are behind what he calls "preposterous intelligence reports" submitted to Malacañang.

On Thursday, Leyson delivered a privileged speech denying his links with the Pentagon.

"I was never involved and have no plans whatsoever to get involved with any illegal or dubious activities. I am strongly denying the charges," Leyson said. *Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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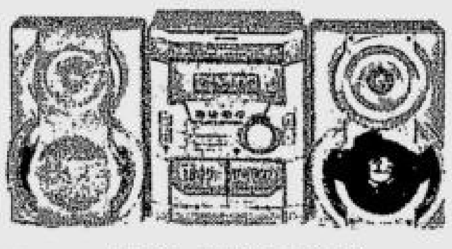

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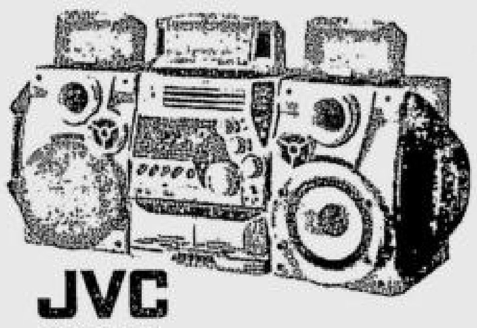

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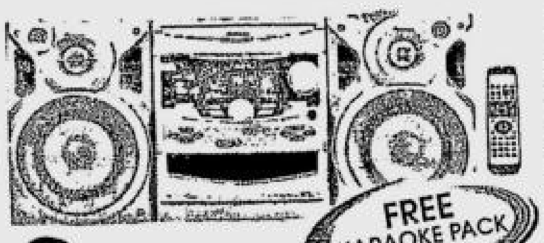

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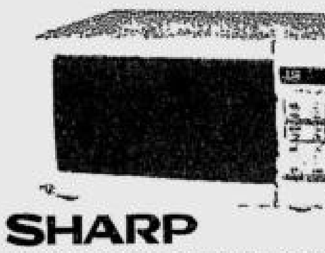

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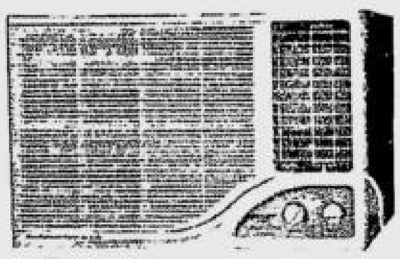

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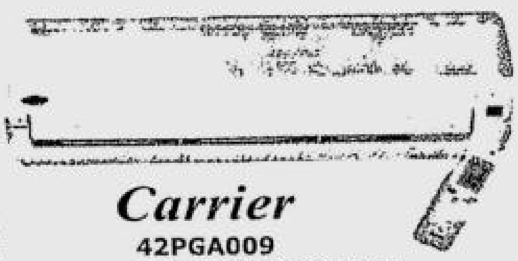

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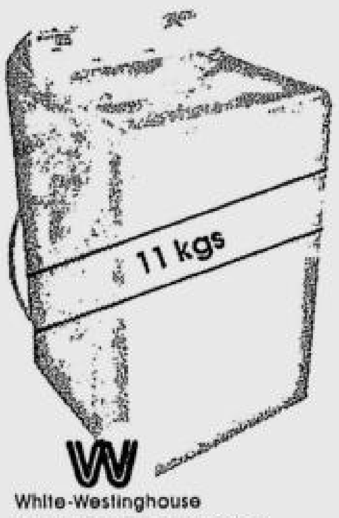

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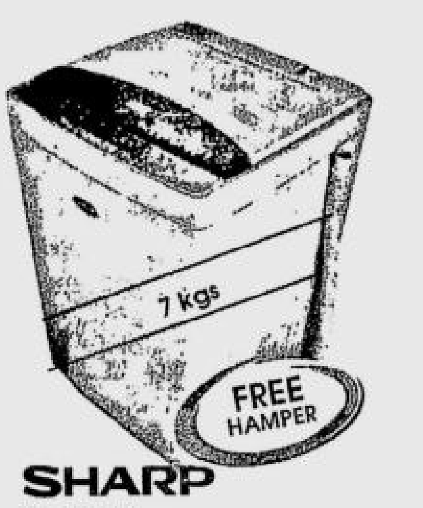

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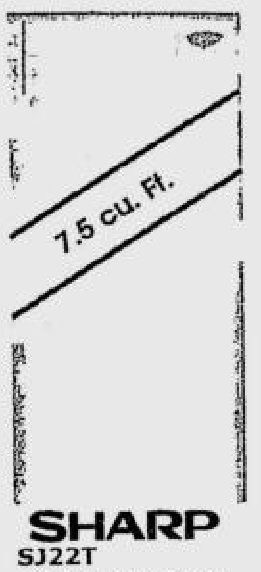

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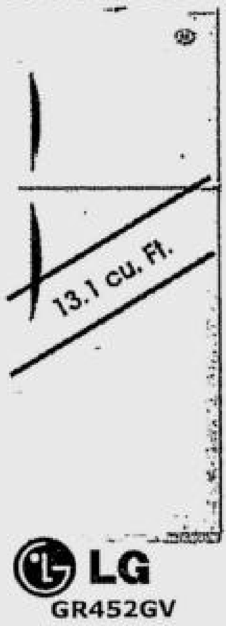

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KL tells girl: Go back to Sabah, file rape raps

From page A1

nor . . . that she was a victim of sexual molestation in one of the detention centers in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah," Mahathir said in a statement.

"I have directed that a swift and thorough investigation be conducted by the authorities concerned to verify the allegation.

"I would like to assure the government and people of the Philippines that appropriate action will be taken against those responsible in accordance with Malaysian laws," the prime minister said.

Relations between Malaysia, the Philippines and Indonesia have soured since Kuala Lumpur's plan to cane illegals became law on Aug. 1, spurring thousands of people to leave.

Demonstrators in Manila and Jakarta have denounced Malaysia, and burnt its flag, though their governments had played down the row until Ms Macapagal fired off her letter.

"We will not tolerate the abuse of our countrymen," Sen. Manuel Villar, chair of the Senate foreign relations committee, said.

He said the government must use its diplomatic relations with Malaysia "to pursue charges against the offenders and see to it that they face the full consequences of their actions in accordance with their country's laws."

Members of the House committee on foreign relations support the filing of a case of human rights violations against Malaysia.

UN commission

Negros Occidental Rep. Jun Lozada, chair of the committee, said the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) should file the case with the United Nations Commission on Human Rights and the International Criminal Court for the deaths and sexual abuse of Filipino migrants.

Lozada made the statement a day after the committee held a daylong inquiry on the deportations on Wednesday.

Assistant Secretary Antonio Rodriguez of the DFA confirmed that Malaysian police turned some Filipino women into sex slaves.

Rodriguez also testified that 12 detainees died in detention centers in Malaysia as late as two weeks ago.

Assistant Secretary Enrique Domingo of the Department of Health testified that the DOH recorded nine deaths—seven children and two adults—after the deportees have arrived in the country.

"This is a very serious matter that should be backed with hard facts," Lozada said.

"But if these reports are true, we should really pursue our case in the UNCHR and the ICC," Lozada said. He said the case could be filed with the regional office of the UNCHR in Bangkok.

Ople eased its tone again yesterday, saying the row would not damage regional harmony.

Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines were among the founding members of the 10-nation Association of South East Asian Nations (Asean), which aims to build itself into a formidable economic bloc.

"The framework of Asean is very strong and will not affect the stability of the Asean," Ople said.

No recall

He rejected suggestions from lawmakers for the Philippines to recall its ambassador from Malaysia as an expression of outrage.

"Our interest is to protect our nationals in Malaysia and this best serves the policy of our friendship with Malaysia," he said.

Ople said the country's policy of "friendship with Malaysia" would be pursued by the Macapagal administration.

In Kuala Lumpur, a local rights group slammed the government for its policy on migrants, billing the crackdown as a gross abuse of power exposing deportees to rape and death, and forcing mothers to sell their children.

Tenaganita said the Home Ministry was well aware of what happened during such campaigns, citing previous instances of rape in custody during a similar exercise back in 1995.

"Is this what Malaysian values is all about?" it asked. ***Reports from Reuters, AFP, Juliet L. Javellana, Michael Lim Ubac and Rocky Nazareno***

TEARS of joy greet the arrival of the Philippine mission in Menggatal detention camp in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, where around 290 Filipinos are detained prior to deportation.

DENNIS SABANGAN

RM awardee returns $50,000 prize money

From page A1

Ramon Magsaysay.

He said that when he came to Manila last month to accept the prize, "some people felt that if I oppose the US government and its policy, I should not accept any money from an American institution."

"Hence I returned the check to the Magsaysay Foundation," he said.

The foundation, however, refused to confirm or comment on the matter until verification had been made.

Communication officer Lourdes Balbin said they were not aware that Pandey had spoken at any news conference in India announcing the return of his cash prize as a matter of principle.

Shortly after the awards were announced in Manila late last month, Pandey and another award recipient from South Korea assailed the US policy against terrorism and said the United States was "the biggest terrorist government in the world."

The $50,000-cash prize for every category of the Ramon Magsaysay Awards, except for emergent leadership, comes from the Rockefeller Brothers Fund. The Ford Foundation provides the cash prize in the same amount for the emergent leadership category.

Trust fund

Pandey, 37, said in an earlier interview with the INQUIRER at the Ramon Magsaysay Center that he wanted to establish a trust fund so that other nongovernment organizations, like the Asha (Hope) for Education school for untouchables that he and his friends had put up, would have a source of financial assistance.

An engineer by profession, Pandey obtained a master's degree in English from the Syracuse University in New York and a doctorate in control theory from the University of California in Berkeley.

Pandey told the INQUIRER that it was his experience in the United States that led him to do something for his country, leading to the establishment of the Asha network of learning centers.

He said he was immersed in his studies when a bombing incident in his Berkeley campus opened his eyes to the fact that the US defense department was using studies in science.

It was then that he decided that he did "not want to face differential equations all (his) life" and should just do something for his country's poor.

"I do not believe that science should be used to kill people as the United States was doing," said Pandey, who criticized the US government's self-imposed role as "global cop."

He said that since receiving the prestigious Ramon Magsaysay Award, the Indian government was paying more attention to his statements concerning social issues and his criticisms of the prime minister.

Dialogue

After the awards were announced, Pandey said that while he "did not like" the Taliban government, he did not support the "unilateral" attacks on Afghanistan by the United States.

He said terrorism arose from the failure to properly address popular grievances.

"Political problems can only be solved by political means," he said. "Dialogue, I think, is the only way." ***With a report from AP***

More Filipinos want priests to marry, says SWS poll

From page A1

that the offender be immediately expelled from priesthood.

Ninety-one percent of the respondents said priests found to have abused children should be punished with expulsion. They said the "one strike and out" policy for US priests should be applied in the country.

SWS conducted the survey at the height of the sex scandal that hit the Catholic Church in the United States. The sex scandal in the United States encouraged a few victims of sexual abuse in the Philippines to come forward.

The polling group said the survey results were presented on July 27 to the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines upon the invitation of the bishops. SWS said the bishops neither sponsored nor requested the survey.

"The survey items in this report were included on SWS's own account, and not commissioned," SWS said, adding that the polling firm is supported by subscribers. ***Armand N. Nocum***

GMA first President to visit gold-rush area

From page A1

plight, especially the small-scale miners who depend on their survival on mining.

He said that they were not asking for more because they were already very blessed with the government's initiative.

In taking over the mining site, DENR Secretary Heherson Alvarez said, "We will acknowledge the rights of every citizen over the natural wealth of the government. We will respect the small miners. They were there first. Everyone has a right and no one has to kneel before any one person."

Alvarez was referring to a handful of big operators who mine the area to the detriment of some 2,500 small-scale miners.

The President, along with Cabinet and local officials, proceeded to Monkayo's municipal sub-office, beside the Mt. Diwata barangay health center, for a briefing.

Horacio Ramos, a director of the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB), explained to the President the action plans already undertaken. A pleased Ms Macapagal asked when government would get its first check from the 19 service contractors it had allowed in the reservation.

In two or three weeks, replied the National Resources Development Corp. (NRDC), in charge of the mining's financial aspect.

Gov't's share

Ramos said the government's share of the mining operations was 15 percent with the remaining 85 percent going to the miners as contractor's fee.

Diwalwal's "manual" mining, which means no use of dynamite, is expected to produce 100 tons of gold ore per day that translates to P120,000 as the government's share.

After the six-month emergency period when only certified small miners are allowed to operate, the NRDC expects to collect P18.72 million in government revenues.

The President said the amount would help the government cope with its huge deficit.

The 15-percent government revenue covers the 2-percent excise tax; one-percent royalty for the Indigenous Peoples; one percent possible vested right; 5-percent management fee; one-percent environmental user's fee, and 5-percent social development plan.

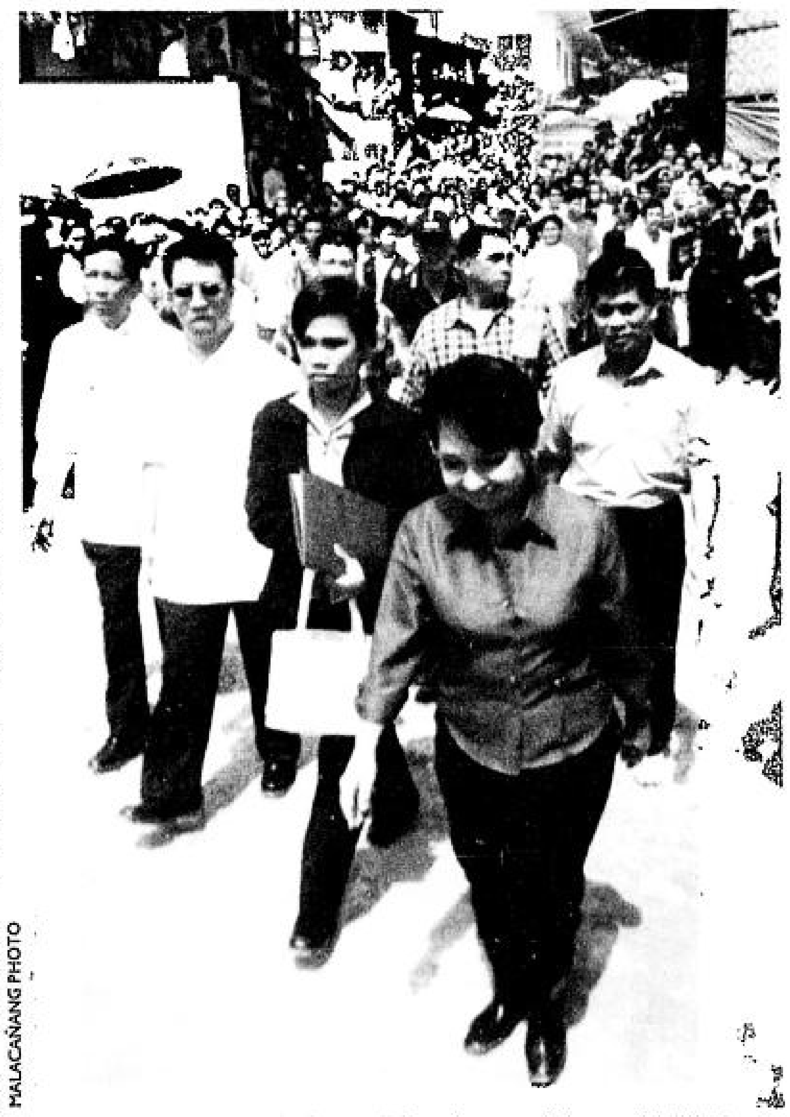
The President said she was hoping that the mining operations would go smoothly with the full cooperation of all the miners until the Presidential Declaration is signed this coming October.

The signing will be preceded by public hearings today, Sept. 6 in Monkayo, in Nabunturan on Sept. 9 and in Davao City on Sept. 11.

The two-decade-long Diwalwal conflict, which sprung from claims and counter claims on rich gold sites, has already caused the death of 60 people, including a Tagum City judge who was killed after he affirmed a cease-and-desist order issued by Monkayo Mayor Jose Brilliantes against small-scale miners.

MALACANANG PHOTO

THE PRESIDENT didn't pass this one up. She was there, too, in Barangay Eva, Hagonoy, Bulacan, where five suspected kidnappers were gunned down by policemen on Wednesday night.



MALACAÑANG PHOTO

THESE boots are made for walking the rough but gold-filled terrain of Diwalwal where more than 8,000 grateful residents applaud the President's arrival on Thursday afternoon.

Piatco to gov't: Lay off

From page A1

"We believe that by holding this meeting and scheduling future talks among ourselves, we will speed up the solution of the problem . . . We will regain the confidence of our foreign and domestic partners," Cheng said.

The Filipino group of businessman Cheng Yong owns 60 percent of the company, while the Japanese firm Nissho Iwai owns 10 percent.

Senate blue ribbon committee chair Joker Arroyo welcomed reports that shareholders of Piatco have agreed "to resolve by themselves the ticklish issues that have been raised against the Naia 3 project."

"If they do (agree among themselves), well and good," Arroyo said. But he was quick to add that any settlement of the Piatco row should "include the German partners."

"I don't want to get involved in their intramurals. But it will perhaps be for the good of all if they work things out amongst themselves," Arroyo said.

Absorb losses

With a $300-million buyout, Fraport, a firm owned by the government of the state of Hesse, would absorb losses amounting to $75 million.

But while Fraport wants the government to take over its stake in Naia 3, the Germans still want "to be involved in the operation and maintenance of Terminal 3."

The proposal was contained in a Fraport letter to Climaco dated Sept. 3.

"Fraport's exposure to the project as of several months ago was $375 million," read the Fraport letter signed by Peter Henkel.

"Nevertheless, after many months of negotiations, Fraport is willing to accept only $300 million should the proposed amicable settlement be approved by the relevant parties."

"It goes without saying that Fraport's wish to be involved in the operation and maintenance of Terminal 3 should, of course, be subject to all relevant Philippine laws and its contractual obligations," Henkel wrote.

Henkel apparently wrote the letter to clarify allegations that Climaco jacked up the buyout deal to $400 million or for a supposed overprice of $100 million.

Henkel noted that beyond Fraport's asking price of $300 million, "additional funds are required to satisfy the other shareholders and creditors."

"It was therefore discussed to reserve another $100 million for this purpose; therefore, bringing the total amount to be financed to $400 million," Henkel said.

Henkel noted that Fraport's letter was preceded by a telephone conversation with Climaco herself.

In an official Malacañang statement, Climaco said the additional $100 million would be used by the government to pay all Naia Terminal 3 contractors, creditors and shareholders.

Some $53 million will go to Takenaka, the contractor that continued with the project although it had not been paid, and other creditors and Piatco shareholders, including the Cheng group, Nissho Iwai and SB Airports.

In the Palace statement, Climaco said that "Fraport would likely be the only shareholder that would lose in the plan to terminate the Piatco contract in favor of the government."

Review BOT

In the Senate, opposition Sen. Edgardo Angara said there was now a need for Congress to review the BOT law in the Naia 3 controversy.

"Congress has to amend the BOT law to revise provisions that are susceptible to various interpretations," Angara said in a statement.

Angara, chair of the Senate committee on constitutional amendments, revision of codes and laws and electoral reforms, noted that the government has had two interpretations of the Piatco deal.

He pointed out that during the time of former Transportation and Communications Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez, the government said that it was a "perfect and valid contract."

But when Climaco took the stand at the Senate blue ribbon committee hearing, Angara recalled, the government said the Piatco deal was "burdensome and onerous."

"This shifting, ambiguous position has been fueling speculations that the government is fronting for a powerful group that wants to take over the contract," Angara said.

He said he was against a government takeover of Piatco, citing government's poor record in managing business.

"The times call for less government. The state should not meddle into concerns that rightfully belong to private business," he added.

Under Fraport's proposal, it would lend the government $400 million, through a loan payable in 15 years and with a three-year grace period.

The government in turn will bid out Piatco's concession within the next 18-36 months, thereby ensuring that the cash-strapped government will not spend a single centavo.

Climaco said the government would benefit from the Fraport offer because its $400 million buyout offer was significantly less than the $657 million that Piatco claimed it had already spent for Terminal 3.

"This would also allow the government to bring down the terminal fee to P600 from the $20 or P1,000 which Piatco wants to charge," Climaco said.

Review welcomed

After the stockholders' meeting, Cheng said, "We welcome President Macapagal-Arroyo's order for a five-man Cabinet committee to review our relationship with government. We also assure the government that all of Piatco's investors would be united when it faces the review committee," Cheng added.

Piatco officials stressed that its ownership structure violated no law. The declaration was in reaction to claims that 61 percent of Piatco is actually owned by the German consortium Fraport in violation of the Constitution and other pertinent laws.

"It fully conforms to the provisions of the Constitution, the Corporation Law and the Foreign Investments Act of 1991. The Securities and Exchange Commission and the Ombudsman have both confirmed that Piatco is a Filipino corporation," Tolentino said.

"Why should presidential adviser Gloria Tan-Climaco now claim that Piatco is actually owned by the German firm Fraport when two government institutions have ruled that Piatco is a legal national corporation under the laws of the Philippines," he said. *With a report from Rocky Nazareno*

Law bars Naia employees from joining Naia 3

By Abigail Ho

AS if it didn't have enough problems, Philippine International Air Terminals Co. is now urging Congress to review a law that prevents incumbent Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) employees from joining the new Naia Terminal 3 when it starts operating.

Piatco spokesperson Moises Tolentino stressed that the company was ready to absorb current airport employees who will apply for jobs at Naia 3, but Republic Act No. 6713, or the Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees, prevents it from doing so.

According to Section 7 of that law, government employees, for a period of one year after resignation or retirement from a government agency, are not allowed to practice in a private entity the same profession he practiced when he was still in public office.

This provision prevents Piatco from hiring employees of the Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA) for at least a year after they get out of their old jobs, Tolentino explained.

"We are limited by law and not by choice. In order to address this situation, we are appealing to our lawmakers to reconsider this provision and allow Piatco to engage the services of the present MIAA employees," he said.

He also said the opening of the new terminal would generate thousands of new jobs, contrary to the belief that it would leave thousands of employees jobless.

Doronila book . . .

From page A1

Manila Critics Circle to outstanding authors, was awarded in a ceremony at the SM Megatrade Hall last Wednesday to "The Fall."

"The Edsa II revolt rocked the country last year and Doronila incisively puts two and two together in this narrative exhaustively culled from many sources," the citation read.

"This is the ultimate insider's take on what went on behind the scenes and beyond the TV screen, with Doronila using his veteran journalistic savvy to show us what really happened during those tumultuous days and why," it added.

Doronila, who had expressed surprise when he won on Friday night the Gintong Aklat Award for the same book, said the commercial and critical success of his book was "entirely unintended."

He related that he had received discouraging advice from several people when he was still working on the book, but he said he was glad that "everything turned out well in the end."

"Some people told me that the timing for writing another book on Edsa II was bad, because so much had already been written on this topic. But I just closed my mind to everything and put my focus on the book and on doing it well," Doronila said.

Thanking his sources

Still, he said that he had his sources, from both inside and outside the Macapagal administration, to thank for the success of his book, which has already sold over 10,000 copies and is now on its seventh printing. The book was published by Anvil Publishing Inc. and INQUIRER Books.

"I really tried to be accurate in my details, so I interviewed a lot of people. I have to thank my sources who have been very cooperative and candid and have given me lots of trust. I couldn't have gotten a more complete picture of the Edsa II events if it were not for them," Doronila said.

He disclosed that it took him three months to do research for the book and six more months for the actual writing.

"If this proved one thing, it is that I still had the stamina to write a book," the 74-year-old author said in jest.

Doronila is now in Spain working out a Spanish translation of his best-selling book.

DORONILA receives his second award for the same book in less than a week, the first time from Virgilio Almario at the National Book Awards Tuesday. BETOY JOHNSON

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Argentina ends American Dream

58-game winning streak stopped as US folds up

By Chris Sheridan

INDIANAPOLIS—Argentina pulled off a victory that until recently seemed nearly impossible, beating the United States, 87-80, at the men's basketball World Championships.

It was the first loss for a US team in 59 games since the Americans began sending NBA players to international tournaments in 1992. The defeat Wednesday night did not knock the US team out of the tournament, but gave them a lower seed for the medal round where the nations could meet again.

US teams had two close calls in the past two years, defeating Lithuania by just two points in the 2000 Olympics and needing overtime to beat Brazil in the 2001 Goodwill Games.

"We'll be back to win the gold," defiant guard Baron Davis said.

Argentina's victory was shocking, but what made it even more incredible was the manner in which it was accomplished. The United States never led, trailed by as many as 20 and couldn't mount an adequate comeback down the stretch.

The Argentines leaped and hugged each other as the final buzzer sounded, while the American players stuck around and congratulated them. The Argentines then formed a tight huddle for several seconds before emerging with their hands raised to salute a small but vocal contingent of their fans in the lower seats at Conseco Fieldhouse.

This US team had said it wanted to keep the unbeaten streak intact, but it also knew that the competition from around the world is getting better. Like the US team, Argentina won its first five games in the World Championships to set up a meeting of the only two nations with unblemished records.

Now, there's only one team with a perfect record.

It's Argentina.

"They were a lot better than we thought," Davis said. "They were just beating us every which way."

Many of the best American players declined to participate in this tournament, and this version of Team USA looked quite vulnerable over the past week—especially against nations that now have their own NBA players. *AP*

GAMES TODAY
USA vs Yugoslavia
(RPN/Solar 7-9 p.m.)
Germany vs Spain
(Solar 1-3 p.m./9-11 p.m.)
GAMES TOMORROW
Argentina vs Brazil
(RPN/Solar 7-9 p.m.)
Puerto Rico vs New Zealand
(Solar 1-3 p.m./9-11 p.m.)

CENTER Gabriel Fernandez of Argentina (left) tries to block a shot by guard Andre Miller of the United States during the Fiba World Basketball Championships yesterday at the Conseco Fieldhouse in Indianapolis, Indiana. Argentina won, 87-80. AFP

BEST clinics slated at Ateneo

YOUNG basketball hopefuls may register for the ongoing Milo BEST Center Saturday- and Sunday-only classes at Ateneo and St. Benedict College, respectively, until this weekend.

According to Milo BEST Center Monica Jorge, classes at Ateneo from 8 to 11 a.m. and St. Benedict from 1 to 4 p.m. will end on Oct. 19 and 20, respectively.

Meanwhile, the organizational meeting for the Women's Basketball League will be held at 3 p.m. on Sept. 11 at the Quezon City Sports club Along E. Rodriguez Ave.

Interested parties may call Milo BEST Center at tel. no. 411-6260 for more details.

Over at Xavier School, defending SBP champion Ateneo blasted JASMS, 56-4, to improve its Group A record to 5-0.

La Salle Greenhills ripped Lourdes School (Mandaluyong), 55-35, to lord it over in Group B with six straight wins.

Selecta tests Tac's Team

REIGNING national interclub champion Spring Cooking Oil winds up its preparation for the "Honghe Cup" International Basketball Grand Prix in Yunnan, China, by taking on the Asian-Games-bound Selecta-RP team at 10 a.m. tomorrow at the Moro Lorenzo gymnasium in Loyola Heights.

Owned by national shooting champion Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla, the Cooking Oil Masters will be led by seven-time PBA Best Import Bobby Parks, superstar Rommel Adducul of the defunct MBA and Fil-Am Jeffrey Flowers.

Other members of the Spring team coached by Tito Palma are Braulio Lim, Mario Reyes, Rodel Manuel, Mike Buendia, Joel Co, Carlo Espiritu, Efren Garcia, Wowie Ybañez and Allan De Castro.

The Cooking Oil Masters, who are scheduled to leave on Monday, Sept. 9, to compete in the prestigious Yunnan tourney from Sept. 11 to 21, have so far won all their three tuneup matches.

"It's an honor to get the chance to play the national team," said Padilla of tomorrow's match.

Spring Cooking Oil's participation in Yunnan is sponsored by Alfa Laval Phils., and Morning Star Travel & Tours and supported. by the Philippine Sports Commission, Basketball Association of the Philippines and Aivendale, the official outfitter.

Asiad bets clinch World Cup berths

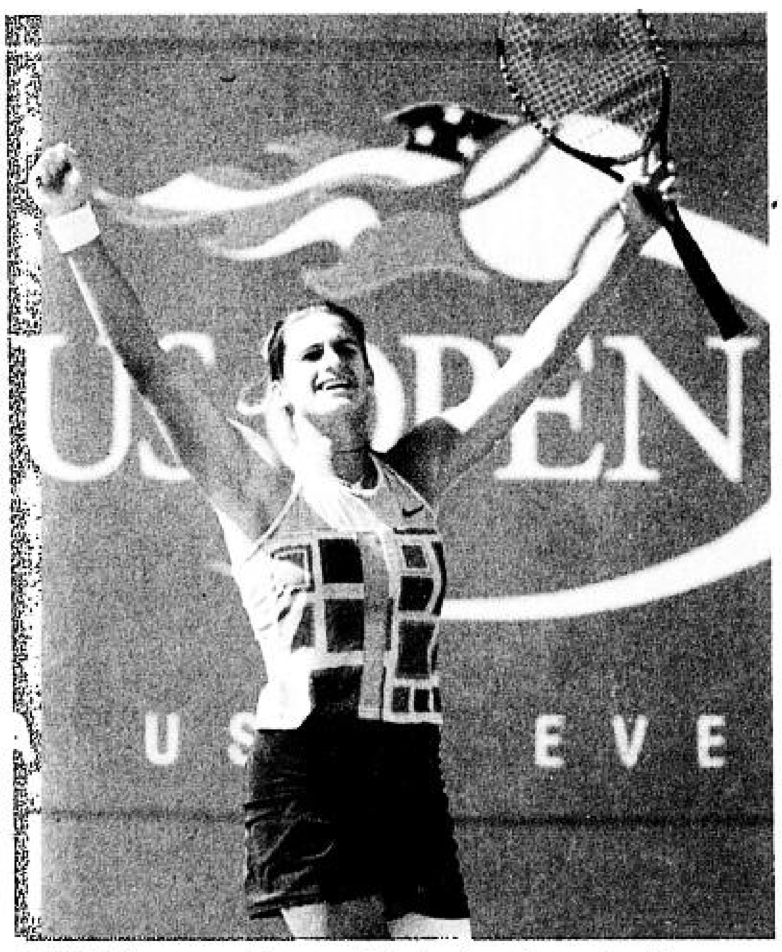
FAVORED Asian Games-bound bowlers Liza del Rosario and Chester King made the right moves at the right time to clinch the top ladies' and men's spots heading into today's homestretch of the World Cup national finals at Power Bowl.

Del Rosario, runner-up to Japan's Nachimi Itakura in last year's World Cup international finals in Pattaya, Thailand, bounced back from a shaky first-day showing to roll a 10-game series of 2075 Wednesday at SM Megamall to lead seven others into the quarterfinals with a 20-game total of 3855 pins.

Del Rosario, third after the opening round with a 178 average, rolled big games of 280, 257, 223 and 221 to overtake early leader and fellow Asian Gamer Jojo Canare, who finished No. 2 with 3818.

Another national bowler, Irene Garcia-Benitez, checked in third with 3656, followed by Ellen Ramos (3576), Baby David (3530), Eve Lombos (3419), Lovella Catalan (3416) and Cecille Cuesta (3327).

Venus has too much venom for Monica; Hewitt, Agassi prevail


AMELIE Mauresmo of France celebrates her win over Jennifer Capriati of the US in the quarterfinals of the US Open Tennis Tournament yesterday at Flushing Meadows, New York. Mauresmo won, 4-6, 7-6, 6-4. AFP

By Howard Fendrich

NEW YORK—Venus Williams reduced her US Open quarterfinal against Monica Seles to something akin to an instructional video.

The two-time defending champion simply had too much in every department and beat fellow American Seles, 6-2, 6-3, Wednesday to join younger sister Serena in the semifinals, putting each one victory away from a third consecutive all-Williams Grand Slam title match.

Defending men's champion Lleyton Hewitt of Australia and two-time Open winner Andre Agassi of the United States set up a semifinal showdown with victories Wednesday.

Hewitt beat No. 20 Younes El Aynaoui of Morocco 6-1, 7-6 (6), 4-6, 6-2, while Agassi fought back to defeat No. 32 Max Mirnyi of Belarus 6-7 (5), 6-3, 7-5, 6-3 at night to get to the Open semis for the eighth time.

Agassi-Hewitt will feature the game's two best returners of serve and the last two baseliners to win Wimbledon, Agassi in 1992, Hewitt in July. Hewitt has won their last three meetings, including two on hard courts this year.

"He's difficult for everybody. He's been No. 1 in the world now for almost a full year," Agassi said. "He makes you play a great match to beat him. I've just got to come out there and do it."

It's another intergenerational duel between a player in his 30s and one in his 20s, just like Pete Sampras vs Andy Roddick in a quarterfinal Thursday.

At 32, Agassi is trying to become the oldest Open champion since 35-year-old Australian Ken Rosewall in 1970.

Venus, trying to become the first woman to win three consecutive US Opens since Chris Evert took four in succession from 1975-78, next plays 10th-seeded Amelie Mauresmo of France. Mauresmo came back to beat Jennifer Capriati of the United States 4-6, 7-6 (5), 6-3.

Against Seles, Venus set the tone by breaking serve in the opening game with a backhand drop shot as her father, Richard, took photos from the stands. Venus finished with 23 winners to six for Seles and won the point on 17 of 20 trips to the net. *AP*

> *'I think people are going to get bored of always seeing the same final between the Williams Sisters'*
>
> –Amelie Mauresmo

Sampras versus Roddick a marquee match

NEW YORK—Andy Roddick loves the idea of playing Pete Sampras in the quarterfinals at the US Open. Sampras, battling whispers about how his game has diminished, is happy to be at this stage against anybody.

Both of them came into the season's final Grand Slam hidden among the seedings, Roddick at No. 11, Sampras at No. 17, the result of so-so summers. Both have made dramatic statements about their games during this tournament, setting up a marquee match in Thursday's quarterfinals.

The winner will advance to the semifinals against either Fernando Gonzalez of Chile or Sjeng Schalken of the Netherlands, who play in Thursday's other quarterfinal.

Roddick and Sampras spent Wednesday recovering from emotional, demanding fourth-round matches.

Roddick, limping on a sore and heavily wrapped left foot, came from behind to defeat No. 26 Juan Ignacio Chela of Argentina 5-7, 6-4, 6-4, 6-4. Sampras squandered a 2-0 lead in his tiebreaker and was forced to go four sets against No. 3 Tommy Haas of Germany before winning 7-5, 6-4, 6-7 (5), 7-5.

That set up the quarterfinal matchup that will bridge two eras of American tennis: that of Sampras and his record 13 Grand Slam titles, and Roddick, one of the game's rising young stars. *AP*

RACING TIPS

Race 1—1. Arrividerci 2. Cause of Our Joy 3 Friendly Venture 4. Owner's Dream 5. Live Show
Race 2—1. Earl Gray 2. Advance Party 3. Zeus 4. Patago
Race 3—1. Malipuno 2. Ounce of Gold 3 With Distinction 4. Musikero 5. Mighty Mickey
Race 4—1. Big Treasure/Silver Print 2 Arya Girl 3. Cherish Emblem
Race 5—1. May's Magic 2. Golden Tale 3. Lucky Swing
Race 6—1. Pay Check 2 Brazen Truth/Loose Cannon 3. Lorna 4. Hollywood Park 5. War General
Race 7—1. Joaqi 2. Courage Heart 3. Spoiler 4. Harvesting Game 5. High Pitch 6. Bohemyo
Race 8—1. Gifted Angel 2. Precious Moment 3. Exceptional Charm
Race 9—1. Rock's Dragon 2 Dedicated 3 Star of Arabia 4. Irish Diplomat 5. Pingas 6. Shen Zhen Girl

SPORTSTV

Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

TENNIS: US Open 2002 at 7 a.m. (r - 7 p.m.) and 10:30 p.m. on Star Sports

GOLF: PGA Air Canada Championship Highlights at 10:30 a.m. (r - 2 p.m.) on Star Sports

SPORTSWATCH SPORTSWATCH SPORTSWATCH

Pasay derby tonight

THE PASAY City cockpit, recognized as the busiest cockfighting center in Metro Manila, will launch its own series of stagfests by presenting a 4-stag derby at 7 tonight. At stake is a cash prize of P300,000 while entry fee is P10,000. Derby host is PCCA Cocker of the Year winner Tony Lasala (Rey San Luis entry). Pit managers Oscar Gonzales, Eric dela Rosa and Butchoy Olano also announced yesterday that the Sagupaan Agricultural Products, makers of Sagupaan Complexor 2000 and Sagupaan Free Mite, has been chosen by the PCC management as the cockpit's exclusive sponsor. For inquiries, call 843-1890, 843-1746 and 816-6750.

Rotarians play at W'Wack

THE 1ST leg of the Rotary International District 3800 Golf Tour will kick off today at Wack Wack. The Tournament is hosted by Rotary Club of Marikina Hiltop led by its president Alfred Lo and will be participated in by some 170 Rotarians and friends. The proceeds of the tournament will be used to fund Rotary projects, including health and nutrition and scholarship program.

PAL Intersports tomorrow

THE PHILIPPINE Airlines Intersports, one of the country's largest corporate sports events, kicks off its milestone 25th edition tomorrow in Davao City with a record field of nine teams participating in the three-day tournament. Philippine Sports Commission chairman Eric Buhain, newly crowned world junior golf champion Dottie Ardina and PAL executive vice president Henry So Uy will lead the opening ceremonies at the Apo Golf and Country Club.

Riviera hosting RP golfers

WITH barely a month to go with their Asian Games mission, members of the national team take an acid test when they compete in the inaugural Riviera Amateur Championship on Sept. 10-13 at Riviera. Jerome Delariarte, Angelo Que, Juvic Pagunsan and Marlon Dizon face the challenge of a bunch of low-handicappers in the championship division. Tournament fee is P2,000. Call 046-414268 or 8077061 local 208 for other details. "This is a very important outing for the boys since it will become an evaluation test after their rigid training," said Club President Danny Pizarro.

SHOW TIME
Glenn Aguilar, the six-time driver of the year, displays an aerial maneuver during the sixth leg of the Superferry National Motocross Series 2002 in the El Pueblo Business Center race track in Cagayan de Oro City. Aguilar placed second in the Pro Open category. Aguilar's teammate Brian Villarde ruled the Open Production with a perfect score of 20 points.

A's post longest winning streak

OAKLAND, California—After being the first Major League Baseball team in 26 years to squander an 11-run lead, pinch hitter Scott Hatteberg's home run with one out in the ninth inning gave the Oakland Athletics a 12-11 triumph over the Kansas City Royals on Wednesday. It was Oakland's third consecutive walk-off win and 20th straight victory—the longest success streak in 67 years. *AFP*

SPORTS

Editor **Al S. Mendoza** ◉ *Associate Editor* **Edwin M. Villanueva**

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Red Bull-Talk N Text Finals series on

GUIAO: We're confident we can handle it. FILE PHOTO

GAMES TODAY *(Cuneta Astrodome)*
5:30 p.m.–San Miguel vs Alaska
7:30 p.m.–Talk N Text vs Red Bull

By June Navarro

BATANG Red Bull and Talk N Text will set aside all historical facts concerning their chances and put on the real show today at the start of the PBA Samsung Commissioner's Cup Finals at the Cuneta Astrodome.

Game 1 of their best-of-seven championship series begins at 7:30 p.m. after San Miguel Beer and Alaska clash in a winner-take-all battle for third at 5:30 p.m.

But while Red Bull coach Yeng Guiao said that the Thunder are the favorites, Talk N Text coach Bill Bayno admitted that his Phone Pals are no doubt the underdogs.

"We've studied the system of Talk N Text and we're confident we can handle it," Guiao said. "Besides, I've always felt that the statistics will bear me out–that we have the best defense in the league. And in a playoff series, defense is everything."

Guiao, on his sixth PBA championship, is eyeing a fourth title while the 40-year-old Bayno, who started calling the shots for the Phone Pals at the start of the season, is a rookie in the Finals' scene.

Player experience is also tilted on Red Bull's side with eight of its players being parts of last year's squad which won the Commissioner's Cup against San Miguel Beer, 4-2.

Tony Lang, Davonn Harp, Willie Miller, Lordy Tugade, Junthy Valenzuela, Jay Mendoza and Edmund Reyes were all part of that team which gave Red Bull its first title since it joined the league in 2000.

Meanwhile, the Phone Pals got a championship exposure only once in their seven-year stint during the 1998 Governors Cup, which they lost to Shell in Game 7.

Red Bull is also looking to become the third team in the '90s to successfully defend a championship, hoping to join the ranks of Alaska (1994-97 Governor's Cup) and San Miguel (Commissioner's Cup and Governor's Cup 1999-2000).

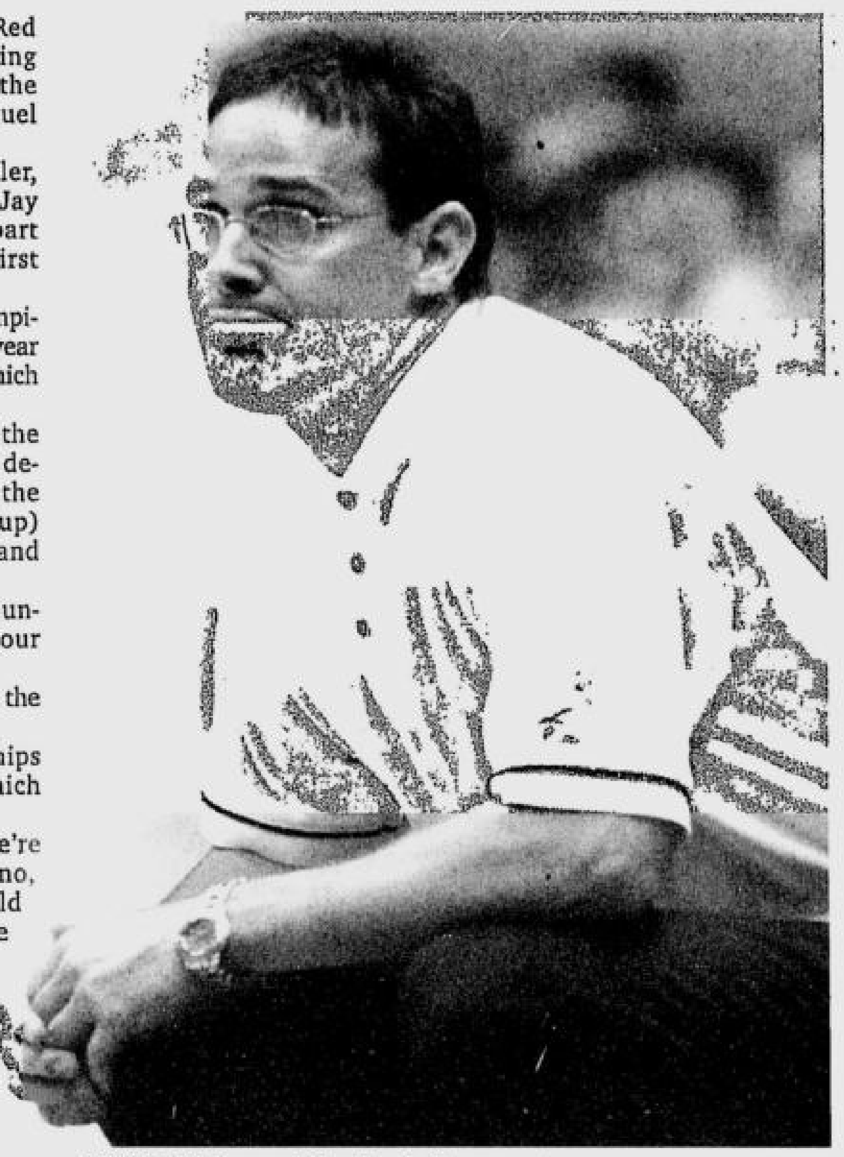
"We'll find a way to beat their (Thunder) talent. Right now, we're focusing our chances on Game 1," said Bayno.

And just how important is Game 1 in the Finals?

In six of the last seven championships and seven of the last nine, the team which took Game 1 went on to win the title.

"It's gonna be a tough climb but we're ready for the challenge," added Bayno, who will rely on his imports–Jerald Honeycutt and Pete Mickeal–in the scoring end.

Mark Telan, Felix Belano, Elmer Lago, Kenny Evans, Vic Pablo and Gilbert Demape are Bayno's other reliables committed to neutralize the Thunders' all-powerful roster.



BAYNO: We're ready for the challenge. FILE PHOTO

Yenko, Tan quit PBA board

By June Navarro

FORMER PBA chair Ignatius Yenko and Talk N Text executive Debbie Tan yesterday tendered their resignation as representatives of the Phone Pals to the PBA Board of Governors.

Ricky Vargas, Piltel senior vice president and human resources chief, will replace them in a temporary capacity.

Yenko and Tan, who both sit as Talk N Text governor and alternate governor, respectively, stepped down amid talks business tycoon and team owner Manny Pangilinan is threatening to join the PBA board.

The INQUIRER tried but failed to reach Yenko and Tan for comment.

"It's a very realistic scenario. He (Pangilinan) has always said that he would like to take an active role in the league's affairs," said the source, who requested anonymity.

If that happens, Pangilinan will become the fourth team owner currently representing their teams in the 10-man board–the other three being Wilfred Uytengsu (Alaska), Bert Lina (Federal Express) and George Chua (Red Bull).

"That's a concern, but nothing that can't be worked out. Besides, just his name in that board is enough to cause a ripple," the INQUIRER source said.

Yenko, whose resignation came a year after his term as PBA chair, will no longer function as league governor when the Phone Pals start their title bid today against the Red Bull Thunder in a best-of-seven series.

Eagles win; UE suspends Booker

GAMES TOMORROW
(Araneta Coliseum)
2 p.m.—NU vs UE
4 p.m.—FEU vs La Salle

By Dennis U. Eroa

AS THE smoke of the "Battle of Katipunan" cleared, one gallant team, wearing blue and white, was left surveying the ruins.

Title-hungry Ateneo blasted University of the Philippines, 87-74, boosting its determined Final Four drive yesterday in the UAAP basketball tournament at the Araneta Coliseum.

In the second game, UE dropped a telling 9-0 bomb at the start of the overtime period to down Adamson, 97-88, for its ninth win in 12 outings.

Bullstrong Enrico Villanueva capped a splendid show by canning his last four free throws, while Wesley Gonzales, Larry Fonacier and Rich Alvarez kept the Eagles' offense and defense running smoothly.

The 6-foot-5 Villanueva, virtually unstoppable in the low post, finished with 25 points on top of 12 rebounds, while missing just twice in nine attempts from the stripes, a powerful expression on his newfound confidence in taking the gift shots.

It was Ateneo's seventh victory in 12 games, good enough for solo third as the race for semifinal slots nears the homestretch. UP dropped to 4-7.

Adamson's bid was derailed when head coach Luigi Trillo was thrown out in the fourth period after receiving two technicals.

Meanwhile, UE suspended guard Arnold Booker for one game for unsportsmanlike conduct against La Salle last Sunday. The UAAP technical comittee has also given stern warnings to Booker and Tubid for the same offense.

Scores:

ATENEO 87—Villanueva 25, Gonzales 18, Fonacier 14, Alvarez 10, Quimpo 9, Cruz 6, Tadeo 3, Chia 2, Escalona 0.

UP 74—Bravo 21, Reyes J. 14, Almeda 9, Cervantes 7, Bienvinida 6, Santos 6, Tabique 5, Nunag 5, Arnaiz 1, Quebral 0, Celo 0.

Quarters: 22-17, 46-39, 63-52, 87-74.

NCAA Today

(Rizal Memorial Coliseum)
11:30 a.m.—San Beda vs UPHR (jrs/srs)
4 p.m.—PCU vs St. Benilde (srs/jrs)

clarion

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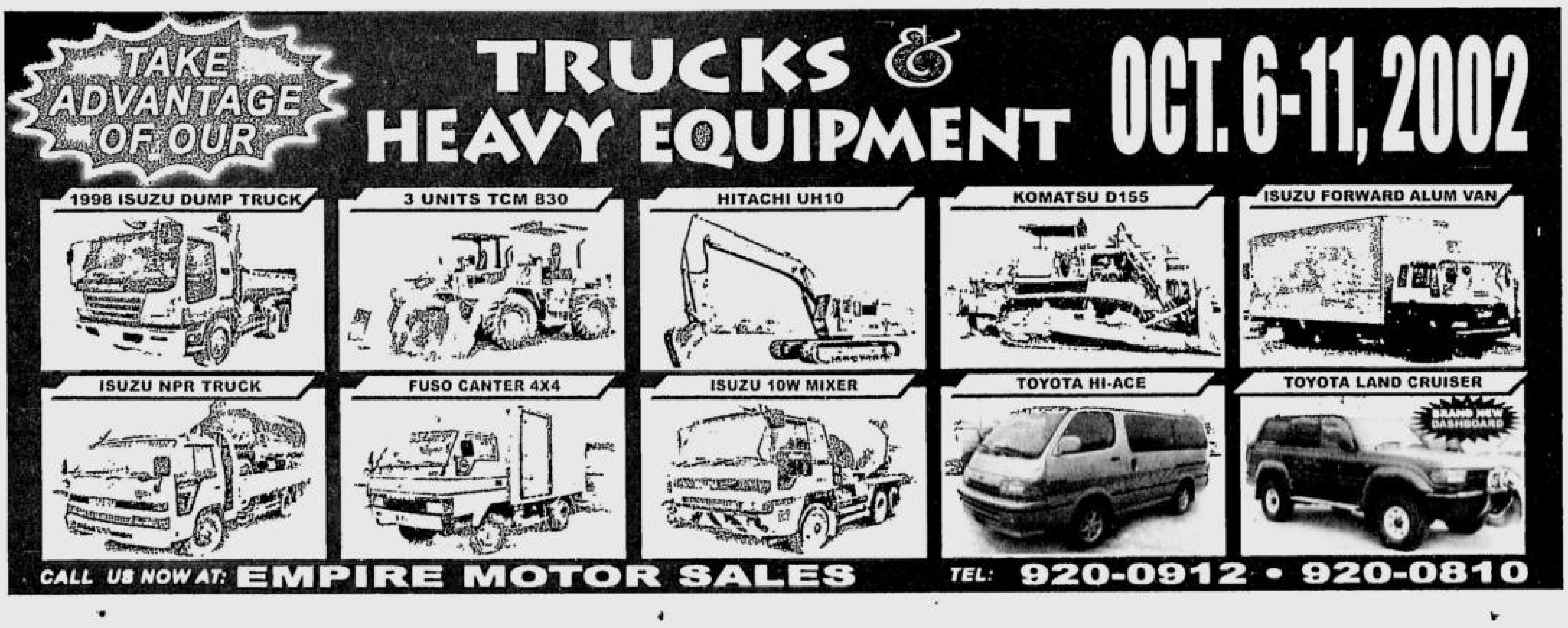

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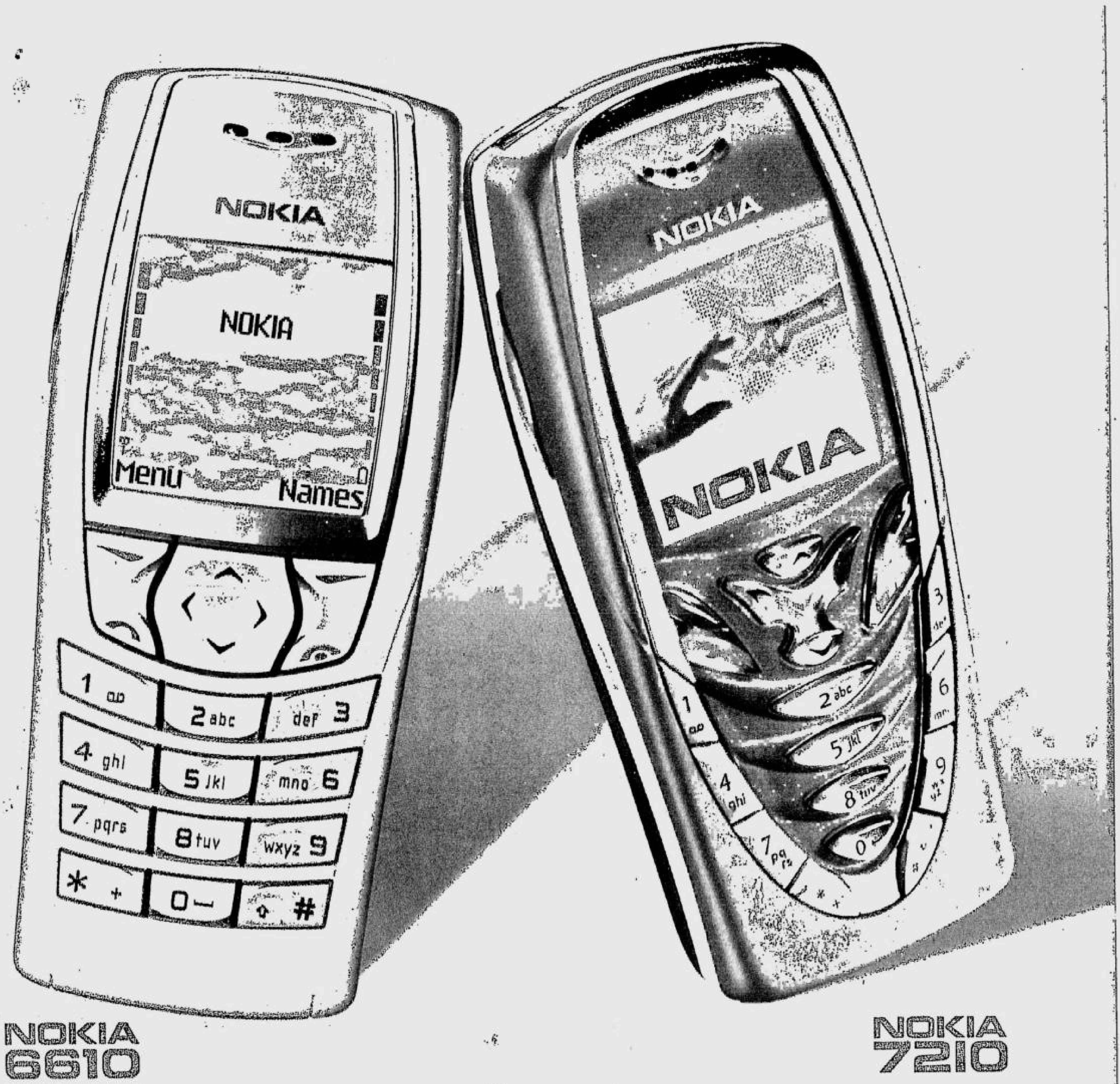
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METRO

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

DUNKIN' DONUTS
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Vendors, drivers to call for Fernando ouster

By Christian V. Esguerra

HUNDREDS of illegal vendors, informal settlers and jeepney drivers will stage this morning what organizers called the largest multi-sectoral protest action against Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) Chair Bayani Fernando for his "Hitleric" policies against the urban poor.

Members of the Kalipunan ng Damayang Mahihirap (Kadamay), the Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU), and the Pinagkaisang Samahan ng mga Tsuper at Opereytor Nationwide (Piston) will also burn the effigies of Fernando and President Macapagal-Arroyo at the MMDA compound to dramatize their outrage.

The call for Fernando's ouster was triggered by his policies on illegal vendors and squatters and the MMDA's alleged failure to remove mulcting traffic officers on the streets, according to Yolly Alcantara of Kadamay.

"(Fernando) has to go," a KMU spokesperson told the INQUIRER. "He's worse than Hitler. He's taking away the poor's only means of living. Does he want the poor to steal?"

Fernando has been trying to clear sidewalks of all obstructions to ease traffic in Metro Manila.

Thousands of informal settlers, particularly those living along the Pasig River, are also protesting the possible demolition of their shanties by the Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission, which is cochaired by Fernando.

VENDORS /A26

Atienza's vending scheme illegal, says councilor

By Jerome Aning

ATIENZA

MANILA Mayor Lito Atienza might have illegally appropriated the city's sidewalks and side streets which he had turned over to illegal vendors to legitimize their livelihood.

Opposition Councilor Benjamin Asilo yesterday said giving the sidewalks and side streets to the vendors has no legal basis and that to do this, Atienza needed an ordinance duly approved by the council because the move involves public property.

Asilo said the sidewalks of Villalobos Street in Quiapo and Trece de Agosto Street in Paco were "withdrawn from their public use as thoroughfares" when vendors' stalls were built along them.

Carriedo, which leads to Quiapo Church, was rendered impassable for all vehicles because the entire street was turned over to vendors, Asilo added.

The first-term councilor said he "thoroughly researched" all the ordinances passed since the '50s and he did not find a single one authorizing the mayor to turn over side streets and sidewalks to "legitimized" vendors.

Sidewalks and alleys have also been "ceded" to one-time illegal vendors in Divisoria and in the vicinity of several public markets.

"Withdrawing the use of streets as public thoroughfares involves the power of eminent domain, which the mayor can only exercise with the council's prior assent," he told the IN-

ATIENZA'S /A26

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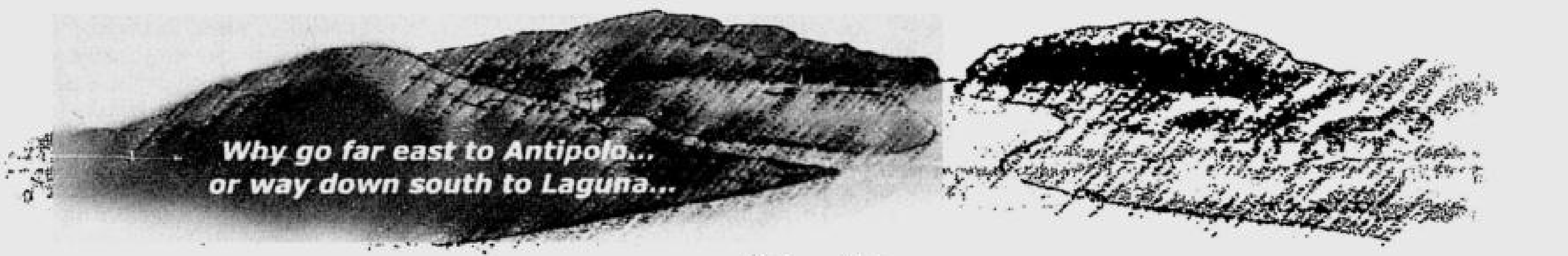

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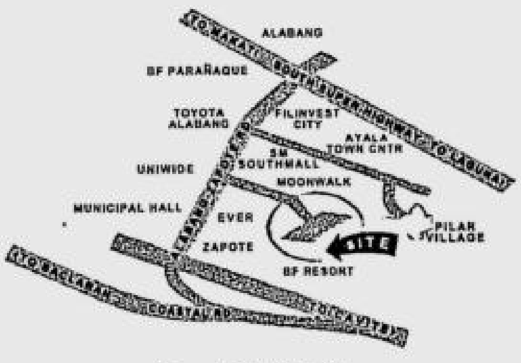

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SMART

Columnist 'middleman' in Chika Go killing arrested

By Philip C. Tubeza

MANILA Police arrested the alleged "middleman" in the killing of Chika Go, even as suspect Victor Macaldo was linked yesterday to the killing of a journalist and a Bureau of Internal Revenue district examiner in San Pablo City and to several robberies in Metro Manila.

The alleged middleman, said to be a tabloid columnist, was arrested on Tuesday for illegal possession of firearms but was released on Wednesday after he posted bail, police said.

Members of the Western Police District-Police Intelligence Unit reportedly found on the columnist an unlicensed .45 pistol.

A source admitted, however, that police have no evidence that would link the columnist to Go's killing.

The source said the columnist would contact Macalado if anybody wanted someone killed. The middleman apparently handled the surveillance and left the actual killing to Macaldo, the source said.

A witness had identified Macaldo, 27, of Molino, Bacoor, Cavite, as one of two gunmen who ambushed Go in Binondo, Manila on Aug. 10.

The source said the highest amount Macaldo had been paid for killing people was only P15,000.

Yesterday, policemen were still waiting for Macaldo's release orders after the Manila prosecutor's office set the case for further investigation. Police are appealing the fiscal's decision.

But San Pablo City policemen yesterday went to the WPD headquarters to check if Macaldo had also been involved in the killing of BIR examiner Graciano and journalist Sonny Alcantara. Balubal was shot while he was driving to his office in San Pablo City on Aug. 20. Three days later, men on motorcycles shot Alcantara in the face while he was leaving his house.

Parañaque policemen and several witnesses also yesterday went to the WPD headquarters to confirm Macaldo's alleged involvement in the robbery of a Petron gas station in Sucat.

Las Piñas police and their witnesses allegedly have also tagged Macaldo as the gunman in the killing of Jaime Casella, alias Joey Ignacio, on Aug. 8.

Macaldo and his brothers Rolando, 29, and Reland, 20, allegedly also robbed a Caltex and Petron gas station in Sta. Mesa, Manila two months ago.

Rolando was killed in a shootout with police during the robbery, but another family claimed his body. Reland had allegedly gone back to Leyte.

On June 8, Macaldo was also allegedly involved in the robbery of a gas station on P. Guzman and Tayuman streets.

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Why NBN-4 has agreed to lose money in the Busan Asiad

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

(CAGE TIP: Do find time to watch the remaining games of the Argentine team in the World Basketball Championship. In upsetting Germany on Wednesday, Argentina displayed the solid poise of a world title contender. The squad has quickness, sharpness, power and ceiling, plus factors rounded up by character and cohesion. At least three mainstays in the Argentine team, all virtual unknowns, could be as good as the NBA players in Team America. RP team coach Jong Uichico could also pick a lot of timely instructions from the Argentine national squad.)

***

The Asiad happens only once every four years. It's one for the scrapbook.

But, looking back at the last Asian Games, local fans are left gazing at a blank screen.

Funny, but we never really got to see the best thing that ever happened to the Philippine delegation in the Bangkok Asiad four years ago.

OK, there were emergency clips, a hazy glimpse, of how Snooky Villanueva and Gandy del Valle snatched the 9-ball pool doubles gold in a cavernous hall outside the Thai capital.

But isn't it a shame that we were never able to view the real thing?

There was no full television coverage of that lone gold-medal triumph, later used by disgraced national sports officials to defend the debacle.

We finally came to know what the two heroes looked like, but only much later when they had come home and were predictably toasted dry in numerous television talk-shows.

***

Both Valle and Villanueva will not be around for the RP pool team in the Busan Asiad.

Villanueva, reported veteran chronicler Eddie Alinea, failed to survive the tough eliminations while Villanueva has gone into business using his fat bonus as capital.

But don't you worry. There will be no repeat of that monumental Asiad oversight in 1998.

The host broadcaster will make only a selective coverage in the initial phase of the billiards tournament. This means not all the early matches of, say, Bata Reyes and Django Bustamante, will be fed to foreign subscribers.

But, to make sure nothing slips the camera's eye, Bobby Arias, point man of the NBN (Channel 4) team covering the games, said they would send a team and provide a special set-up at the tournament venue.

Arias was also worried that preliminaries of the boxing event, tapped together with billiards to land medals for the RP delegation, will not be covered by the host broadcaster.

No choice, Arias said, NBN 4 will have to send a team to cover that first phase where Filipino fighters are sure to figure.

***

These developments promise to be a bonus for Filipino viewers.

But do you know that NBN-4 had all but given up on cornering the television rights for the Busan Asiad?

NBN got to learn that they had won the bid only at the last minute, bared Joey Isabelo, network general manager. He thought another outfit, which had made a bigger offer, would bag the deal.

Actually, all that NBN got after the deal culminated were terrestrial rights. That meant the government network could not carry the Games on cable, a terrible handicap as the coverage would fail to reach provincial outlets.

Anyway, while Isabelo was out with sportswriters in the morning to announce how they had won the TV bid, NBN chair Mia Concio was haggling hard for the cable rights.

Before nightfall, Ms Concio emerged from her decisive conference looking drained but triumphant.

With NBN also gaining the cable rights to the Busan Asiad, advertisers now have a wider nationwide market for their products.

***

But hold it. To those who have not heard of it, NBN has confirmed it was bound to lose a cool P10 million in the Asiad effort.

Not only because of the short selling time. The franchise rights, together with the tremendous sums needed to assemble a coverage team, set up a studio in Korea and haul tons and tons of equipment, could easily turn off other outfits.

In fact, Brunei and Singapore have refused to buy coverage rights because of the prohibitive cost.

NBN, however, agreed to gamble and scrape bottom because, as station bigwigs explained candidly, the coverage is a commitment.

Not only to the Filipino people, but to all our national athletes as well.

The government network does not make much noise about this. But it's fully aware that our athletes would feel like playing in an empty stadium if their games in Busan would not be beamed to the Philippines.

***

Look, it's hard to measure the happy influence and impact of television on national athletes.

But nobody can deny that, in this era of modern technology, the television camera has become a great goad toward winning.

There could be no greater joy for the winner than to stand erect during the award rites and feel that his proud, teary countrymen are out there singing the national anthem with him, thanks to the magic of television.

The importance of television in regional meets like the Asiad cannot be overstated.

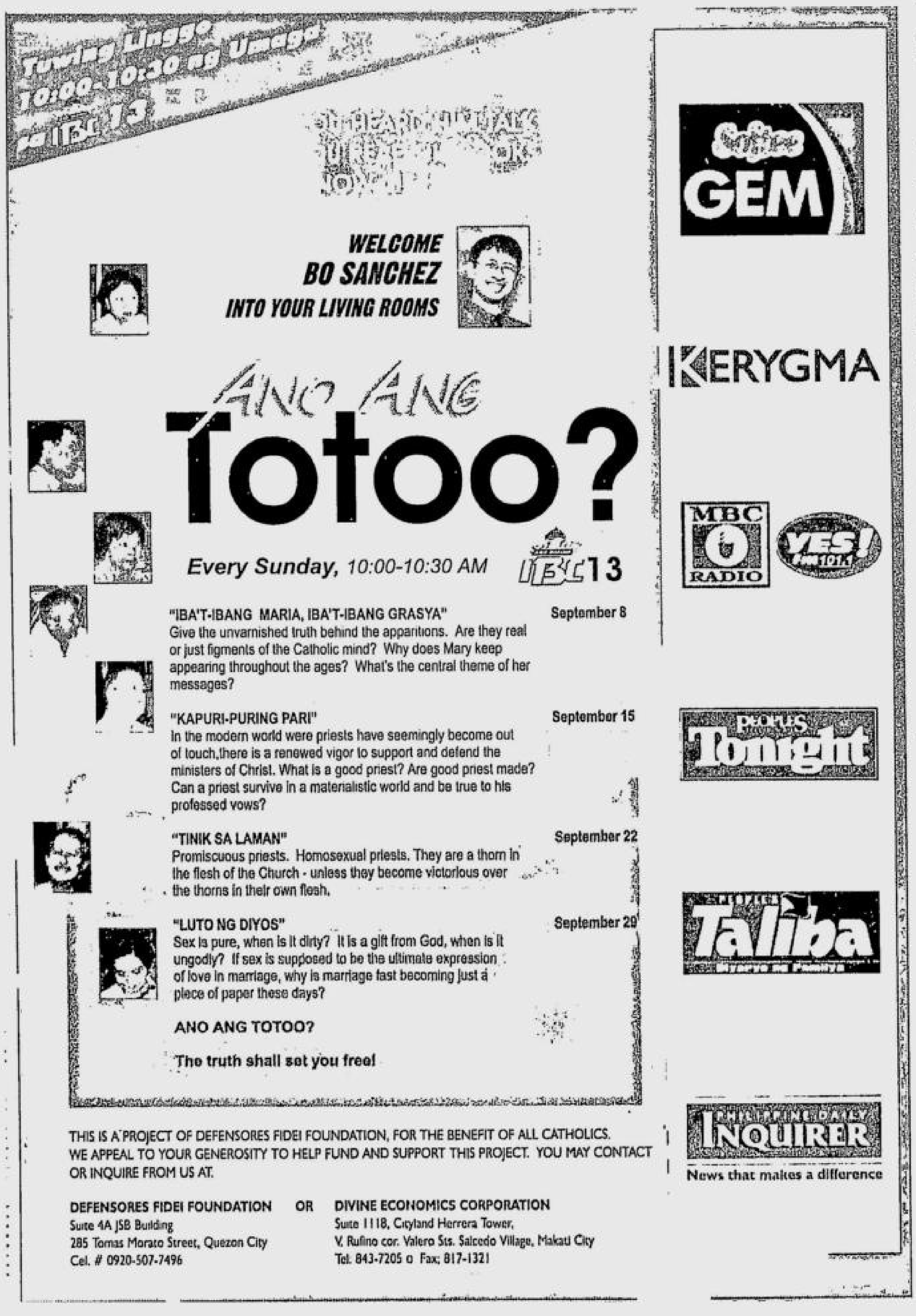
Big Filipino winners never fail to rush to their national television booth abroad to communicate and share the golden moment with their relatives and the home audience.

After the medals, television is the next most mesmerizing highlight of a sportsman's exploits.

This only means that, even if NBN has agreed to lose money in the Asiad venture, it should find time to feel victorious in the end.

A lot of NBN staffers, technicians, engineers, scriptwriters, directors, assistants, will offer all their best efforts and extend waking hours for the success of the Busan coverage.

Let's just hope and pray our athletes will be able to help avoid another debacle.



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Manila OKs curfew ordinance

By Jerome Aning

THE MANILA city council yesterday passed an ordinance imposing a daily curfew from 10 p.m. to 4 a.m. within the capital for all youths below 18 years old.

The curfew also covers weekends and holidays.

No councilor objected when the ordinance, authored by 6th district Councilor Julio Logarta Jr, was read for the third and final time.

Youths must secure curfew passes from their barangay leaders to be allowed to go out during curfew hours.

Exempted from the curfew are those accompanied by their parents, guardians or other elders who are of legal age; night school students or working students whose schedules mean they have to be outside their residents beyond 10 p.m.; and those running errands such as buying medicines or using phones for emergency purposes.

Police and barangay authorities will implement the curfew.

Logarta said the curfew would lessen instances of children getting caught in violent incidents during nighttime and the cases of wars between youth fraternities.

All youths apprehended for violating the curfew, however, must not be held for not more than two hours. If the offender is an non-Manila resident, he or she should not be held more for than six hours, the ordinance says.

It the youth is homeless or abandoned, he or she would be turned over to the city's social welfare department in 12 hours.

The law provides for the creation of a barangay curfew advisory board to determine and mete out sanctions for first- and second-time offenders, and recommend the filing of a case against third-time offenders.

If the offender is 9 years old and below, the sanction would be limited to a reprimand. For those 9 to 15 years old, a reprimand and an admonition to the parents or elders would be given.

Atienza's vending scheme . . .

From page A25

QUIRER.

"In effect, the council was again bypassed," he added.

Atienza's spokesman Armand Sebastian denied that the mayor withdrew the streets from public use.

He said Villabos and Trece de Agosto's sidewalks are still intact, while Carriedo, even if closed to motorists, can still be used by pedestrians.

Asilo earlier filed graft charges against Atienza for not implementing an ordinance shutting down the Pandacan oil depot.

Asilo said the closure of the streets or the cession of sidewalks is also unfair to the motorists who paid road-user taxes and to the pedestrians who are entitled unimpeded passage through all streets.

He said the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority, in it's campaign to remove street obstructions, could still technically demolish the stalls on the three Manila streets.

Sebastian said the MMDA would not interfere with the city government's right to solve the problem of illegal vending.

Asilo was a vendor for about 15 years at the Tondo's Pritil market. He was chair of the Pritil vendors' cooperative when he was elected councilor in 2001.

He said Atienza should instead organize the vending system in public markets by ridding the system of corrupt officials and ensuring that the vendors obey market regulations.

Vendors, drivers . . .

From page A25

"I don't know why they're blaming me even on the issue of squatting," Fernando told the INQUIRER.

"It's not my job, it's the job of the NHA (National Housing Authority)," he said. "Squatters along the Pasig River were already being driven away even before I became MMDA chair."

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MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13 (PG13)

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3	HIGH RISK

starmall Movies

(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986

1	HIGH RISK
2	JOLOGS
3	GAMITAN
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BOURNE IDENTITY
5	BAKAT

METROPOLIS star

tel 850.4285

1	DERAILED
2	GAMITAN
3	BAKAT
4	BOURNE IDENTITY
5	HIGH RISK
6	JOLOGS
7	
8	

PREMIERE CINEMA THX

(Makati City) tel 751.2010 to13

BOURNE IDENTITY
SEPTEMBER 4, 5, 6, WED,THUR, FRI.
TIME : 5:30 PM, 8:30 PM, 10:30.
5:30 PM, 8:00 PM, 10:30 PM.

Center Plaza Cinema

(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	JOLOGS
2	LILO & STITCH

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC

tel 930.9515

1	
2	AMBISYOSA
3	

Sunshine

(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

GAMITAN
1
2
3
4

GOTESCO CINEMA

Gotesco City

(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (SDDS)	JOLOGS
4	GAMITAN
5	HIGH RISK
6	BAKAT
7 (DTS)	AUSTIN POWER-3
8 (SDDS)	SIGNS
9 (DOLBY)	BOURNE IDENTITY

Gotesco Caloocan

tel 362.3508

2	RESERVE

Gotesco Grand Central

(Caloocan) tel 365.7928

1	BAKAT
2	JOLOGS
3	GAMITAN
4 (SDDS)	BOURNE IDENTITY
5	JOLOGS
6 (DOLBY)	SIGNS
7 (DTS)	HIGH RISK
8	TRIPLE X
9	DERAILED

Gotesco Commonwealth

tel 951.0082

4	JOLOGS
5 (SDDS)	HIGH RISK
6 (DTS)	BAKAT
7 (DOLBY)	BOURNE IDENTITY
8	GAMITAN

Gotesco Ortigas

tel 656.6795

1	HIGH RISK
2	BAKAT
3 (DTS)	JOLOGS
4	GAMITAN
5 (SDDS)	BOURNE IDENTITY

Universal

(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	BAKAT

Sampaguita

(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	BAKAT

Dilson

(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson	HIGH RISK
Lords	HIGH EXPLOSIVE
Jennet	RESERVE

MARKETPLACE Mandaluyong

tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	HIGH RISK
2	BOURNE IDENTITY
3	BAKAT

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto SUPER CINERAMA

tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	BOURNE IDENTITY
2	HIGH RISK
3	GAMITAN
4	JOLOGS
5	BAKAT

FRC Cinema

(Talaba Bacoor Cavite)

1	RESERVE
2	RESERVE

Berma Cinema

(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1	BAKAT
2	BOURNE IDENTITY

THE CENTER OF ENTERTAINMENT Araneta

MALL CINEPLEX 7

tel 911.3101 loc. 821 8242 8400

1	JOLOGS
2	GAMITAN
3 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BOURNE IDENTITY
4 (SDDS)	SIGNS
5 (DTS)	TRIPLE X
6	HIGH EXPLOSIVE
7	HIGH RISK

Farmers Plaza CINEMAS

tel 911.3101 loc. 821 8242 8400

1	BAKAT
2	BOURNE IDENTITY

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall

(Sta. Rosa Laguna) tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	BAKAT
2	JOLOGS
3 (DTS)	BOURNE IDENTITY

Cinema 2000 Waltermart

(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7983

1	JOLOGS
2 (DTS)	AUSTIN POWER
3 (DOLBY)	BOURNE IDENTITY
4	SIGNS

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall

(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	JOLOGS
2 (DOLBY)	SIGNS
3 (DTS)	BOURNE IDENTITY
4	AUSTIN POWER

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix

(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	JOLOGS
2	GAMITAN
3	SIGNS
4	

Cinema 2000 MetroTown

(Tarlac) tel(045) 982.1729

1	GAMITAN
2	JOLOGS
3 (DOLBY)	KILLING ME SOFTLY
4 (DTS)	DERAILED

Magic Star Cinema

(Tarlac City) tel (045) 611.4305

1	GAMITAN
2	DERAILED
3	JOLOGS

Lianas Cinema

(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1	DERAILED
2	BAKAT
3	HIGH EXPLOSIVE
4	HIGH RISK

Lianas MovieCity

(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	BOURNE IDENTITY
2	JOLOGS
3 (DTS)	AUSTIN POWER-3
4	GAMITAN
5	BAKAT

Olivarez Tri-Cinema

(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	JOLOGS
2	BOURNE IDENTITY
3	BAKAT

Olivarez Los Baños

tel (049) 249.2558

1	BAKAT
2	JOLOGS
3	BOURNE IDENTITY

Mega Center Mall

(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3233

1	MORE ANTS IN THE PANTS
2	JOLOGS
3	TRIPLE X
4	GAMITAN

Cabuyao

(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	BAKAT
2 (DTS)	RESERVE

Emperor

(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	JOLOGS
2	TRIPLE X
3	BIGLANG LIKO

Fiesta World Mall

(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	GAMITAN
2	DERAILED
3	TRIPLE X
4	JOLOGS

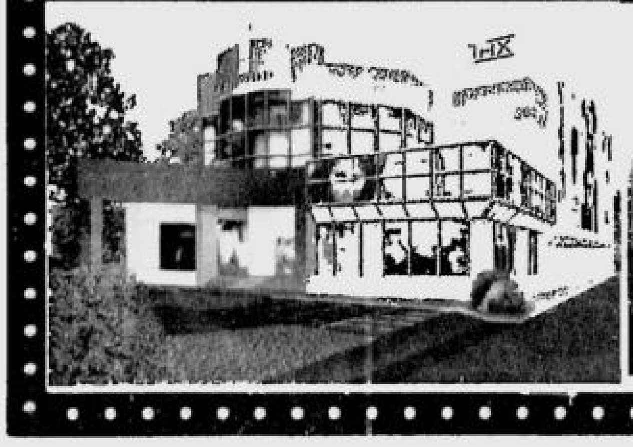
Jade Cinema

(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY)	BOURNE IDENTITY
2	MORE ANTS IN THE PANTS
3 (DTS)	SIGNS
4	AUSTIN POWER-3

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice .

ADVANCED SCREENING THX DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS



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MATT DAMON
THE BOURNE IDENTITY

SM CINEMA

SM Dial-A-Movie Tel. 633-9999

NOW SHOWING

SM CITY BACOOR

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1	HIGH RISK
2	SIGNS
3	THE BOURNE IDENTITY
4	TRIPLE X
5	DERAILED
6	JOLOGS
7	BAKAT
8	AUSTIN POWERS

SM CENTERPOINT

7149522 -7161416

1	JOLOGS
2	UNFAITHFUL
3	THE BOURNE IDENTITY
4	BAKAT
5	HIGH RISK
6	GAMITAN
7	TRIPLE X
8	DERAILED
9	SIGNS
10	AUSTIN POWERS

SM CITY FAIRVIEW

9350749

1	JOLOGS
2	HIGH RISK
3	TRIPLE X
4	SIGNS
5	THE BOURNE IDENTITY
6	BAKAT
7	AUSTIN POWERS
8	GAMITAN
9	DERAILED
10	HUMAN EATER
11	UNFAITHFUL
12	JOLOGS

SM CITY MANILA

5239240

1	AUSTIN POWERS
2	THE BOURNE IDENTITY
3	THE ROOKIE
4	SIGNS
5	TRIPLE X
6	THE BOURNE IDENTITY
7	HIGH RISK
8	DERAILED
9	JOLOGS
10	GAMITAN
11	JOLOGS
12	BAKAT

SM MEGAMALL

6331901 • 6329401

1	UNFAITHFUL
2	DERAILED
3	THE BOURNE IDENTITY
4	SIGNS
5	HIGH RISK
6	THE ROOKIE
7	GAMITAN
8	AUSTIN POWERS
9	JOLOGS
10	TRIPLE X
11	BAKAT
12	THE BOURNE IDENTITY

SM CITY NORTH EDSA

9295452

1	HIGH RISK
2	AUSTIN POWERS
3	BAKAT
4	JOLOGS
5	GAMITAN
6	SIGNS
7	TRIPLE X
8	THE BOURNE IDENTITY

SM SOUTHMALL

8066888

1	THE ROOKIE
2	AUSTIN POWERS
3	THE BOURNE IDENTITY
4	SIGNS
5	DERAILED
6	GAMITAN
7	JOLOGS
8	TRIPLE X
9	HIGH RISK
10	BAKAT

SM CITY CEBU

2313876

1	THE BOURNE IDENTITY
2	TRIPLE X
3	KILLING ME SOFTLY
4	SWEETEST THING
5	SEX & ZEN
6	GAMITAN
7	JOLOGS
8	THE BOURNE IDENTITY

SM CITY ILOILO

3209422

1	BIGLANG LIKO
2	CLOSED
3	SWEETEST THING
4	UNFAITHFUL
5	JOLOGS
6	THE BOURNE IDENTITY
7	CLOSED
8	ORANGE COUNTY

SM CITY PAMPANGA

7128015

1	THE BOURNE IDENTITY
2	ORANGE COUNTY
3	BAKAT
4	GAMITAN
5	SIGNS
6	JOLOGS

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT

8294975

1	AUSTIN POWERS
2	JOLOGS
3	THE BOURNE IDENTITY
4	SIGNS

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN

2514302

1	THE BOURNE IDENTITY
2	BAKAT
3	JOLOGS
4	HIGH RISK

SM CITY DAVAO

2976998

1	THE BOURNE IDENTITY
2	JOLOGS
3	TRIPLE X
4	UNFAITHFUL
5	SWEETEST THING
6	INSOMNIA

SM BICUTAN

1
2
3
4

SOON TO OPEN!
4 NEW
STATE-OF-THE-ART
VISION & SOUND

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO

1
2
3
4

SOON TO OPEN!
4 NEW
STATE-OF-THE-ART
VISION & SOUND

THE PODIUM CINEMA

[illegible] Mandaluyong City
633-6976

1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
2	THE BOURNE IDENTITY 11:00 MF/1:30/4:00/6:30/9:00/ 11:00 LFS/11:30 LMF/1:30 END

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1 THX	BOURNE IDENTITY
2	HIGH RISK
3	THE ROOKIE
4	AUSTIN POWERS
5	BOURNE IDENTITY
6	SIGNS
7	BAKAT
8	JOLOGS
9	TRIPLE X
10	UNFAITHFUL

Ermita

536 -7809- 12

1	BOURNE IDENTITY
2	BAKAT
3	HIGH RISK
4	SIGNS
5	THE ROOKIE
6	JOLOGS
7	AUSTIN POWERS

Metro East -

Marcos hway 682- 8193 / 8280

1	GAMITAN
2	BOURNE IDENTITY
3	AUSTIN POWERS
4	TRIPLE X
5	HIGH RISK
6	JOLOGS
7	SIGNS
8	BAKAT

Novaliches

935- 3229 - 30

1	BOURNE IDENTITY
2	TRIPLE X
3	JOLOGS
4	UNFAITHFUL
5	SIGNS
6	AUSTIN POWERS
7	BAKAT
8	GAMITAN

Imus

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1	BOURNE IDENTITY
2	JOLOGS
3	SPIRIT
4	TRIPLE X
5	INSOMNIA
6	GAMITAN

Bacolod

441- 0453 / 0459

1	BOURNE IDENTITY
2	JOLOGS
3	SPIRIT
4	THE SWEETEST THING
5	INSOMNIA
6	GAMITAN

Iloilo

336- 8077 - 78

1	BOURNE IDENTITY
2	UNFAITHFUL
3	THE SWEETEST THING
4	JOLOGS
5	ORANGE COUNTY
6	BIGLANG LIKO

Star Mills-

San Fernando, Pamp. 875- 1927
961 5318 / 5270

1	SORORITY BOYS
2	SIGNS
3	JOLOGS
4	BAKAT
5	BOURNE IDENTITY
6	BOURNE IDENTITY

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Gary: I'm ready for the countryside

GIVEN more time in his frenzied calendar, **Gary Valenciano** wants to explore the countryside. He says he enjoyed his previous performances in the provinces which have all been successful and well-received.

Sure, he has performed in many concert venues in other countries, but Gary says there's nothing like performing before a crowd in a province in his own land.

"It's easy to please provincial audiences because they're excited from beginning to end," he offers. "I feel it's time to go to places here that I've never been to. I always go abroad, but I have not explored so many places here like Sorsogon, for instance.

"I've been able to perform only in the major cities in the country. I'd like to reach out to the more remote areas and entertain the people there."

Gary gets to do that on Sept. 14 when he holds his first performance in Catbalogan, Samar.

"I will always welcome an invitation to perform in the province," Gary says. "I want to do more of this kind of shows in the future."

Before his Samar concert, Gary gets to regale Manila audiences in a limited engagement, "Gary V: Hits Onstage," which starts Sept. 6 at Onstage in Greenbelt. Other show dates are Sept. 20, 27 and 28, 9 p.m.

In the Onstage show, Gary returns to a venue close to his heart. He was the first singing artist to perform at Onstage, where he did "By Request 2," which were staged 10 successful times in 2000.

He promises that the repertoire of the new concert series will have songs he hasn't performed before. With musical director Mon Faustino, he has lined up Motown hits and tunes from **Carly Simon** and **James Taylor**.

"I personally selected all the songs in the repertoire," he says. "Even my hits will sound different. Mon and I worked on an arrangement for 'Eto na Naman' that sounds very Linkin Park. I'm sure the young in the audience will love it."

Gary says Onstage is not an easy venue to perform in. "It's a theater so I think the audience is more comfortable to just sit back than watch a show," he explains. "That's why they did musicals there because the stage is deep and broad. But to break out from that theater set-up is a challenge for every performer."

"Gary V: Hits Onstage" is a production of Manila Genesis Entertainment for Maxi-Media International.

Gary has written songs, become a commercial endorser and even tried theater. He also made movies as an actor.

He says his most memorable film role was in **Lino Brocka**'s dramatic opus, "Kung Tapos na ang Kailanman," where he pitted acting skills with the veteran **Eddie Garcia**. Also in the cast of that movie were **Gretchen Barretto** and **Princess Punzalan**.

"Lino wanted me to do 'Ben Demonyo' as my launching film, but he died," Gary laments.

Gary's eldest son, **Paolo**, recently made his own debut in musical theater. Paolo stars in the ongoing Trumpets production of "The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe." Although Paolo has said that he will not enter show biz and follow in the footsteps of his dad, Gary says he is proud of whatever his 17-year-old son has accomplished.

"After the first time I saw Paolo in a dress rehearsal and he came onstage, I told him, 'You're ready son'."

Does Gary foresee the day when people will simply call him as "Paolo's dad"?

"I long for that day to come," Gary says. "That means I've accomplished a great deal."

VALENCIANO. To explore places he has never been to.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

Jess in Jest

WRITER **Jess L. Banguis** of Cupang, Muntinlupa City, sent me a copy of his latest book, "Jests Between Us (A Newsman's Autobio-laughy)," which will be released this month.

Banguis, who also did the illustrations in the book, said the book is "nothing more than a recall of his experiences as a PR and newsman for 25 years, treated humorously for reading pleasure."

In the foreword, Banguis wrote: "This book has no literary pretensions or aspirations of any kind. I just want to tell my story the way I want it told. The story of my life.

"If you are a serious type, a grammarian or a perfectionist, this book is not for you.

"This book may be better enjoyed by people who live in order to laugh and love.

"I only use the present tense, no past, no future tenses. I want you to imagine that what you are reading is actually happening right before you now."

Banguis was the former editor of Mabuhay Herald, Negros Digest and San Miguel Corp.'s monthly newsletter "Kaunlaran." He previously authored two humor books.

He dedicates "Jests Between Us" to Frankie **Eizmendi Jr.** and Sen. **Juan Flavier**, among many others.

Banguis has been bed-ridden since his release from St. Claire's Hospital. I hope he gets well soon so he can promote his new book.

In good company

PRESIDENTIAL son **Mikey Macapagal-Arroyo** is in good company, what with the biggest gathering of comedians in his Viva Films debut, "Jumbo 'Day."

Starring with Mikey are local filmdom's top rib-ticklers—**Andrew E.**, **Blakdyak**, Salbakuta and **Rufa Mae Quinto**.

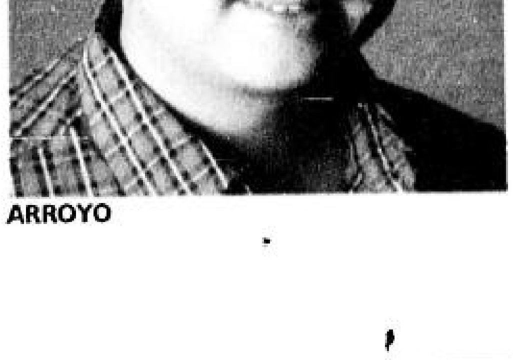
Each star comes from a big hit movie. Andrew E. and Salbakuta teamed up in "S2pid Luv." Andrew E. also starred with Eddie Garcia in "D' Uragons."

Blakdyak was with **Janno Gibbs** in "Wait a Minit Kapeng Mainit," while Rufa Mae played the comic heroine in "Super B."

From the first shooting day of the movie, Mikey was excited to work with all his costars.

"I don't really get to work with so many comedians before," Mikey says. "But in this movie, I get the chance to work with the good ones. What more can somebody like me ask for? *Nandito na lahat*. It's really a madcap cast."

Sexy star **Patricia Javier** complete the cast, with newcomer **Jen Rosendahl**.



ARROYO

Thanks, Cesar

THANKS to **Cesar Montano**, who sent the INQUIRER exclusive photos of him with his Hollywood costar **Joseph Fiennes** ("Shakespeare in Love," "Killing Me Softly") in **John Dahl**'s "The Great Raid," now being filmed in Brisbane, Australia. *(See photos in this section, page A32).*

Simply for victory

SMART and the Philippine Olympic Committee lets you join the action of the 2002 Asian Games in Busan,

PHILIPPINE OLYMPIC COMMITTEE

THE ASIAN GAMES TRIVIA

Fantastic Samsung TV sets, VCD and DVD players, microwave ovens, refrigerators, R220 celfones or Adidas sports watches to be given away everyday! Plus a chance at winning a brand new Samsung T-100 colored celfone! Once you register, all you have to do is correctly answer the Asian Games trivia questions we send you. Correct answers entitle you to raffle entries depending on the category of questions:

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The Asian Games Trivia begins on September 1 and ends on October 31, 2002!

SIDE A AT ENCHANTED KINGDOM
Enchanted Kingdom, the Philippines' first and only world-class theme park, presents Side A, the country's premier band, in an all-hits concert, Sept. 7, 7 p.m. The pop quintet recorded original hits like "Eva Marie," "Hold On," "Tuloy Pa Rin Ako," "Will I Ever," "So Many Questions," "Until Then" and "Forevermore" which made waves in radio airplay and recording, spinning album sales to gold and platinum records, and filling concert venues not only in the Philippines but in the United States and around Asia as well. Side A is composed of five exceptionally talented musicians—Naldy Gonzales, Kelly Badon, Joey Benin, Ernie Severino and Joey Generoso. For more details, call 830-2111 to 16.

Keeping it clean on the daytime TV screen

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

WE'RE glad that more people are joining us in our effort to make televiewing a healthy experience, especially for young viewers. But don't just call or write us, the important thing is to let the TV channel bosses know how you feel. And please be specific—cite particular infractions, telecast dates, erring individuals, effect on young viewers, etc.

Reviewing the infractions we've noted in the past days, a big problem is the inappropriateness of an element or approach to the time of day when a program is aired.

Thus, the morning shows are criticized for tackling "sexy" topics that would be OK if discussed on late-night programs. This is due to the fact that pre-schoolers are at home in the morning hours, and sexy talk is too disturbingly mature fare for them.

Sex-oriented topics have been coming on strong in morning programs because of the more intense competition for ratings between the country's leading TV channels. In this fiercely combative situation, TV people have "forgotten" their responsibility to their viewers, who are ultimately the victims in this "total war" TV scenario.

The good news is, after the morning shows were criticized by different individuals and groups for becoming so shockingly sex-oriented, they have pulled back to a certain extent, and the situation now is not as bad as it was last month.

In fact, we occasionally hear morning-TV program hosts cautioning their colleagues not to "cross the line" in terms of graphic talk or winking innuendo.

We see this as a good sign, because we can complain until we're blue in the face, but daytime TV won't *really* improve unless our TV people themselves behave responsibly.

As for the noontime shows, our biggest beef is about their sexy "beauty" contests, erotic dances and smarmy talk. Again, these wouldn't be deemed excessive late at night, but noontime programs should definitely be for family viewing.

Unfortunately, some TV people don't want to accept the fact that noontime shows should have built-in limitations in deference to family viewership. They dismiss their critics as snitty conservatives who don't represent the views of the general viewing public.

But complaints about excesses on noontime shows *can* have a positive effect, as long as they're objective and not *ningas-kugon*.

It would be great, of course, if the channels themselves policed their own ranks. And if the MTRCB and KBP were more alert in protecting the viewing public from inappropriate programming.

But the MTRCB appears to be more focused on classifying films, and TV doesn't get as much of its attention as the medium deserves. As for the KBP (Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster sa Pilipinas), it should be more pro-active and not belatedly reactive.

Other aspects of TV programming that merit our attention and concern:

- Show portions that punish and debase contestants by making them do shocking, dangerous or embarrassing things, in the hope of making some much-needed money.
- The leering way that some TV people treat women as sex objects. conversely, some *male* contestants have also been given the sex-object (boy toy) treatment on TV of late—so, even the menfolk now have reason to complain!
- A stress on crime, violence, scandal, gossip, controversy and superstition, to grab viewers' attention. This is reprehensible because it results in wrongheaded values and priorities, which contribute to the continuing "idioticization" of the Filipino viewer.

Since TV is such a popular and readily-available medium, its effect on the national consciousness is substantial. that's why we should all do our share in making sure that negative practices are exposed, and positive contributions stressed.

'Sine Shawie'

EVERY Saturday at 9 p.m. from Sept. 7 to Oct. 26, IBC-13 presents "Sine Shawie," a retrospective of **Sharon Cuneta** starrers on her 25th anniversary in show biz.

Schedule: Sept. 7, "Maging Sino Ka Man" with **Robin Padilla**. Sept. 14, "Sana'y Wala ng Wakas" with **Cherie Gil**. Sept.21, "Pangako Sa 'Yo" with **Bong Revilla**.

Oct. 5, "Wala ng Iibigin Pang Iba" with **Cesar Montano**. Oct . 12, "P.S., I Love You" with **Gabby Concepcion**. Oct. 19, "Ikaw" with **Ariel Rivera**. And Oct. 26, "Bituing Walang Ningning" with Cherie Gil.

'Imbestigador' marks second anniversary

ENRIQUEZ

IN THIS day and age when the evil forces seem to be lording over all good things, ordinary people need not despair. With the entrance of the country's fearless TV show "Imbestigador," gone are those days when people had no one to run to whenever they are abused or deprived of their rights. Even remaining silent is no longer an option now that Mike Enriquez, the Imbestigador ng Bayan has appeared on the scene.

It was only a matter of time before the award-giving bodies stood up and took notice. The 2001 Star Awards recognized "Imbestigador" as best public service program for their pursuit for truth and justice. The award-giving body also gave Mike Enriquez the best public service host award.

"Imbestigador" was granted the best TV counselling and public service plum in the 2001 Catholic Mass Media Awards.

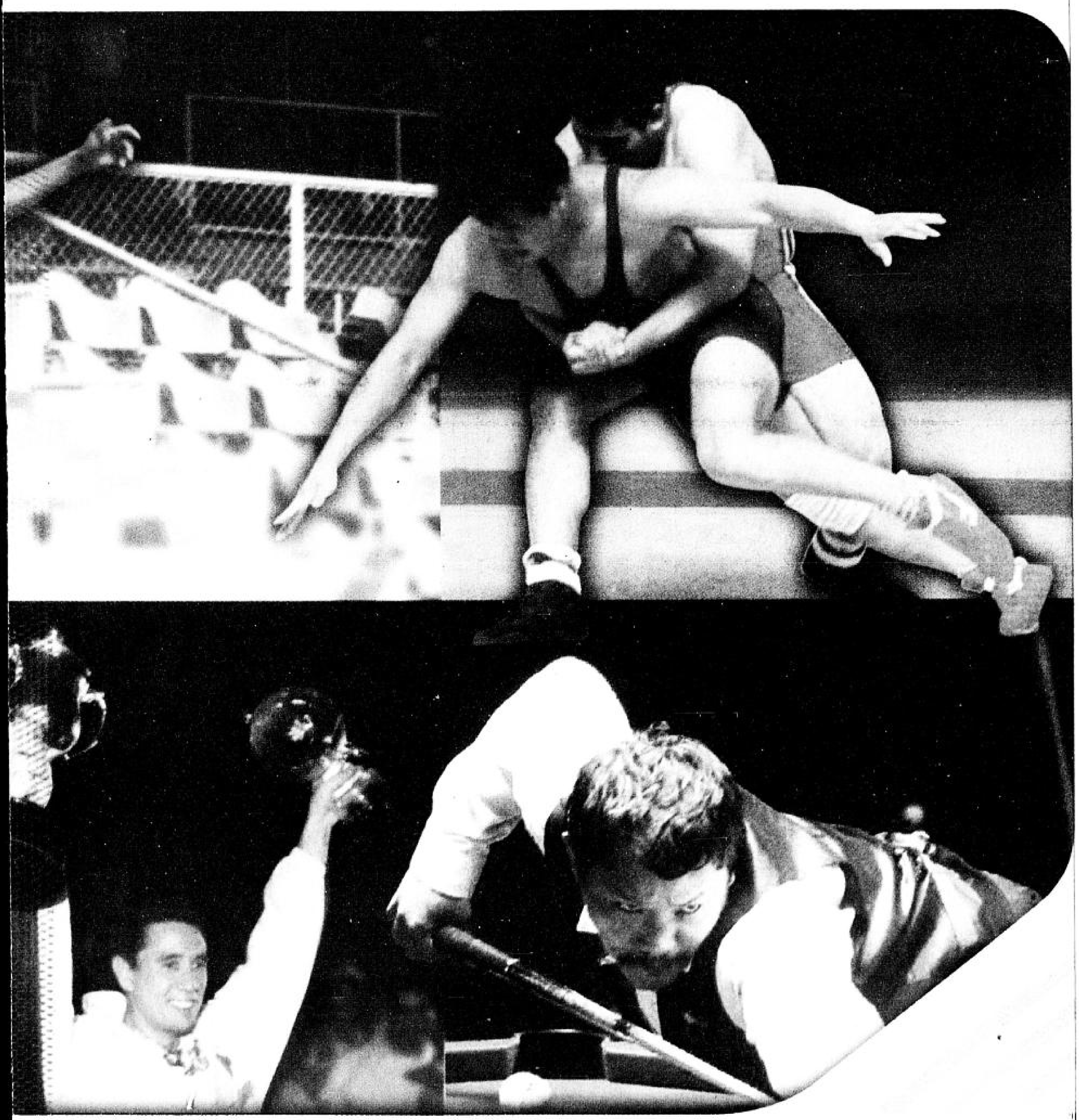
Now on its third year, the ratings of "Imbestigador" continue to escalate every week as they carry on with their quest to bring justice to the lives of ordinary Filipinos who feel helpless in today's world of chaos—proof of viewers' belief in Mr. Imbestigador's selfless vigilance.

Mike Enriquez and the "Imbestigador" team have their own share of death threats but they still choose to take action in cases like raiding a film that manufactures over P1 billion worth of pirated VCDs, equipment and discs with the Videogram Regulatory Board (VRB), exposing a barangay captain and his fellow kagawad who tried to use their 'power' in releasing their bar girl 'girlfriends' and revealing the National Food Authority rice scam.

They also visited various barangays in Quezon City, Pasay City, Manila and Pasig to listen to the grievances of the people in those areas.

Join the Imbestigador ng Bayan Mike Enriquez, as he continues with his Serbisyong Totoo undertaking in the second anniversary special of "Imbestigador," Sept. 7, 6:30 p.m. on GMA.

This week's episode zeroes in on a yet-undiscovered consumer crime involving cement, a DPWH executive who visits the cockpit using official time and vehicle and the various crimes that victimize women.



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many gold medals do you think our team will win? If you get it right, you get a chance to win ₱10,000!

end of the Asian Games, a raffle entry will be awarded to the subscribers with the correct guess. ie draw will be held wherein the number of winners to be drawn will be equal to the number of nedals won by the RP Team.
ple: 10 Gold Medals = 10 winners of ₱10,000)

d your entries, just key in GOLD <number of medals> and send to 291.
ple: GOLD 10)

PPORT THE RP TEAM

our athletes your appreciation! Cheer them on and send an encouraging message-which we orward to the Philippine Olympic Committee and to our heroes in the Asian Games. an also download Asian Games logos and picture messages, plus receive daily news updates.

ply use the following keywords and send to 291.

SUPPORT/CHEER FOR THE RP TEAM	CHEER <your message>
GET DAILY ASIAN GAMES UPDATE	NEWS ON
DOWNLOAD ASIAN GAMES LOGOS	LOGO
DOWNLOAD ASIAN GAMES PICTURE MESSAGES	PIC

downloading of logos and picture message is ₱15.00. All other text messages sent to 291 is ₱2.50.

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Take a peek into Tessa's closet in 'Coffee Talk'

DESIGNER and inimitable fashionista Tessa Prieto Valdes opens her home to Cheri Mercado for a fascinating tete-a-tete this weekend on "Coffee Talk."

How does Tessa keep up with the hair, make-up and clothing demands of her chameleon-like persona? Find out when she allows Cheri to take a peek inside her closet.

Meanwhile, sports-loving entrepreneur Anton Gonzalez takes a coffee break and shows Cheri what it takes to successfully run a chain of 60 high-end retail-store and still have time to watch the NBA finals.

Also this week is a preview of a unique acoustics concert.

"Coffee Talk" airs 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays on the ABS-CBN News Channel (ANC).

Auditions for ABC 5 program

IDEAL Minds Corporation, creators of hype and reality-based shows "Trabaho Lang," "Urban Doctor," "The Exchange," "On-Air" and "Single," all aired on ABC 5, is on the lookout for six opinionated individuals with diverse personal backgrounds for its newest "anything goes" show tentatively titled "Six" or "6."

The new program puts six "fellas" under one roof for three months of unscripted, no-holds-barred discussion on anything about sex and relationships.

If you're between 18-30 years old, has the spunk and guts to tackle "sex-y" stuff on nationwide TV, you may audition for "6" at 4 p.m. today at 1005 Madison Suites, Pioneer Highlands in Mandaluyong City.

Weekend party with Mild Seven

LAST weekend, the Mild Seven models had a fabulous time partying at some of Makati's posh bars like Che Cigar, Mati, Cork, Gerry's Grill, Whistle Stop, Grilla, National Sports Grill, Hard Rock Café, Streetlife, Wasabi, Buddha Bar, Pier One, Cable Car and Bedrock.

The gorgeous models turned the party mode a notch higher as they mingled with the crowd at Streetlife, the latest hub for partyphiles.

The team spotted a lot of Mild Seven smokers who all received premium Mild Seven items such as t-shirts, caps, turbo lighters and hip ear gears.

To enjoy and experience the smooth taste of Mild Seven, check out your favorite bars at the Megastrip and Quezon City areas this weekend. The team will drop by TenYears After tonight and Giligan's, Tapika, Katips, Sibil, Pier One, star Traxx, Rockstar, Grilla and Whistle Stop tomorrow night, Sept. 7.

ArtFilm Greenbelt 1
NOW SHOWING
From the award-winning director of Raise the Red Lantern, Not One Less and The Road Home
HAPPY TIMES
a film by
ZHANG YIMOU
Based on the Novella by MO YAN
"Shifu, You'll Do Anything for a Laugh"

"Worth watching for Dong Jie's performance – and for the way it documents a culture in the throes of rapid change."
– Jonathan Foreman, NEW YORK POST

"An engaging and specific portrait of a culture in transition, even as it evokes humanity's most universal and timeless values."
– Ann Hornaday, WASHINGTON POST

"Zhang makes a powerful statement about modern-day China."
– Maria Garcia, FILM JOURNAL INTERNATIONAL

"Endows humanist cinema with a heroic moral dimension."
– Andrew Sarris, NEW YORK OBSERVER

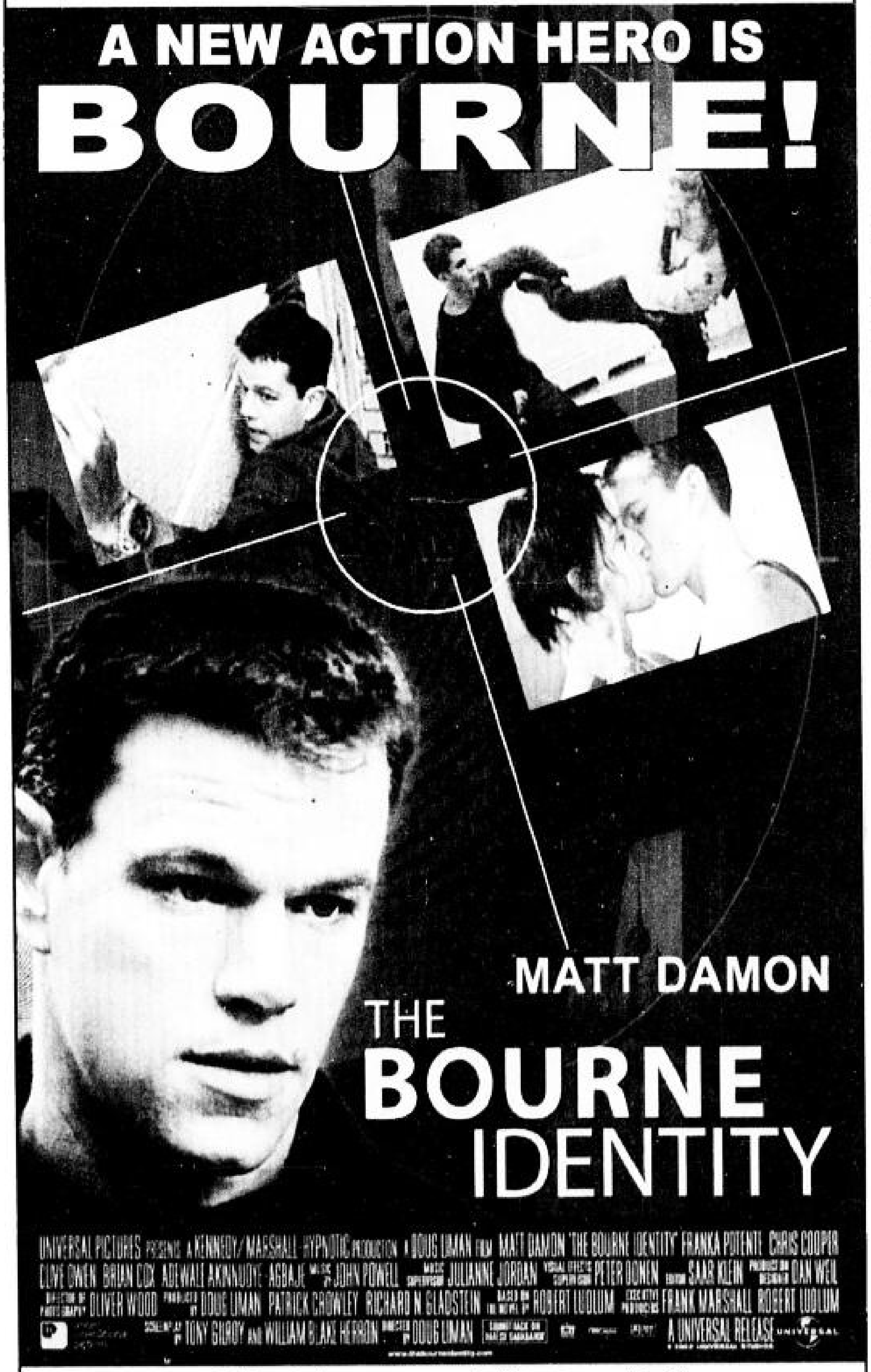
"This is a film that blends darkness and light, laughter and tears – expertly and with love."
– Michael Wilmington, CHICAGO TRIBUNE

"Simultaneously poignant, engagingly funny and bittersweet, it mixes its elements in a way that is completely its own."
– Kenneth Turan, LOS ANGELES TIMES

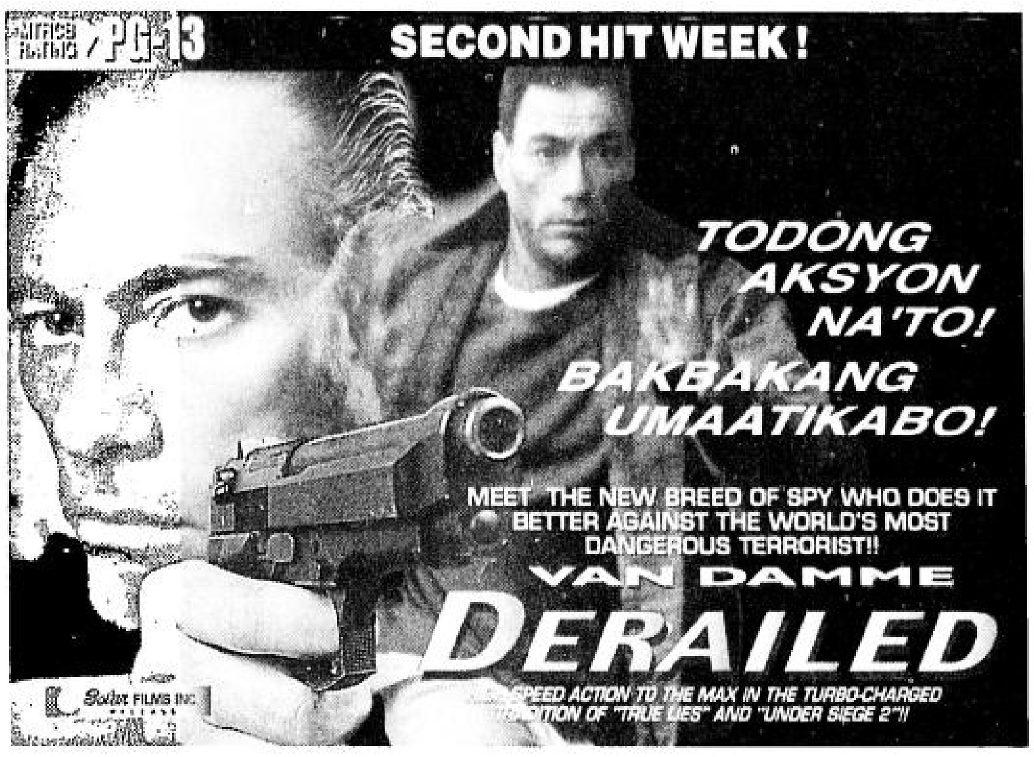
MTRCB Rating: General Patronage (G)

NOKIA CONNECTING PEOPLE
AYALA CINEMAS
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13
Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.
The film contains some violence which young audiences may find disturbing. Parents and guardians are cautioned against bringing children 13 years old and below



A NEW ACTION HERO IS BOURNE!
MATT DAMON
THE BOURNE IDENTITY
UNIVERSAL PICTURES PRESENTS A KENNEDY/MARSHALL-HYPNOTIC PRODUCTION A DOUG LIMAN FILM MATT DAMON "THE BOURNE IDENTITY" FRANKA POTENTE CHRIS COOPER CLIVE OWEN BRIAN COX ADEWALE AKINNUOYE-AGBAJE MUSIC BY JOHN POWELL MUSIC SUPERVISOR JULIANNE JORDAN VISUAL EFFECTS SUPERVISOR PETER DONEN EDITOR SAAR KLEIN PRODUCTION DESIGNER DAN WEIL DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY OLIVER WOOD PRODUCED BY DOUG LIMAN PATRICK CROWLEY RICHARD N. GLADSTEIN BASED ON THE NOVEL BY ROBERT LUDLUM EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS FRANK MARSHALL ROBERT LUDLUM SCREENPLAY BY TONY GILROY AND WILLIAM BLAKE HERRON DIRECTED BY DOUG LIMAN A UNIVERSAL RELEASE
united international pictures
VIVA INTERNATIONAL PICTURES
A VIVA ENTERTAINMENT COMPANY
NOW SHOWING



MTRCB RATING / PG-13
SECOND HIT WEEK!
TODONG AKSYON NA'TO!
BAKBAKANG UMAATIKABO!
MEET THE NEW BREED OF SPY WHO DOES IT BETTER AGAINST THE WORLD'S MOST DANGEROUS TERRORIST!!
VAN DAMME
DERAILED
SPEED ACTION TO THE MAX IN THE TURBO-CHARGED TRADITION OF "TRUE LIES" AND "UNDER SIEGE 2"!!
Solar FILMS INC.

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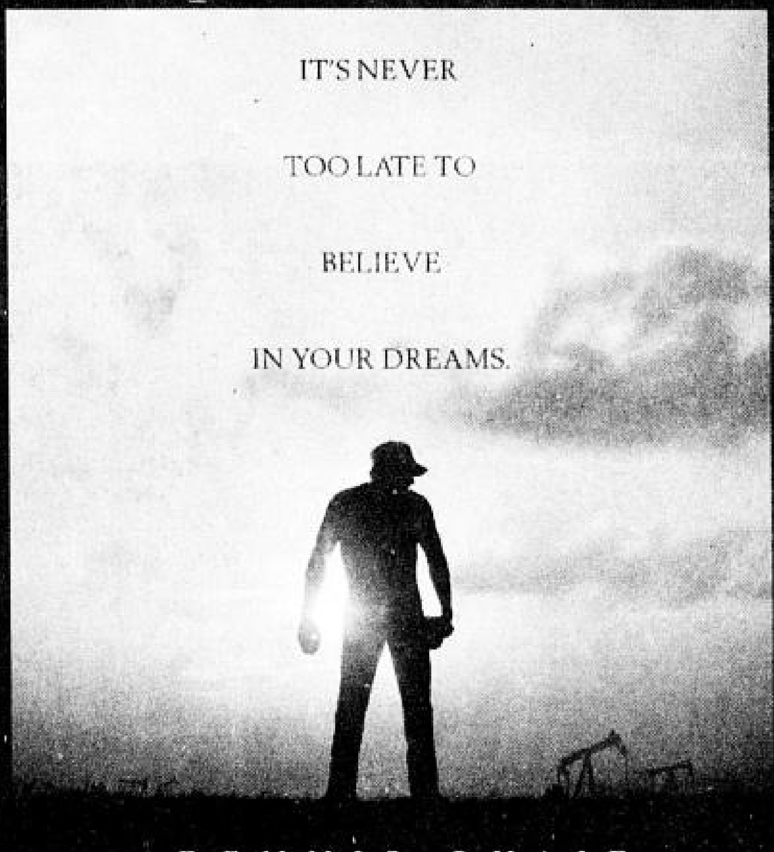
ALL AGES ADMITTED
FROM THE STUDIO THAT BROUGHT YOU "REMEMBER THE TITANS"



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IN YOUR DREAMS.
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BASED ON A TRUE STORY.
WALT DISNEY PICTURES PRESENTS DENNIS QUAID "THE ROOKIE" A GRAN VIA PRODUCTION RACHEL GRIFFITHS JAY HERNANDEZ AND BRIAN COX MUSIC SUPERVISOR JOHN BISSELL MUSIC BY CARTER BURWELL COSTUME DESIGNER BRUCE FINLAYSON FILM EDITOR ERIC L. BEASON PRODUCTION DESIGNER BARRY ROBISON DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY JOHN SCHWARTZMAN, A.S.C. EXECUTIVE PRODUCER PHILIP STEUER WRITTEN BY MIKE RICH PRODUCED BY GORDON GRAY AND MARK CIARDI MARK JOHNSON DIRECTED BY JOHN LEE HANCOCK
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Walt Disney Pictures
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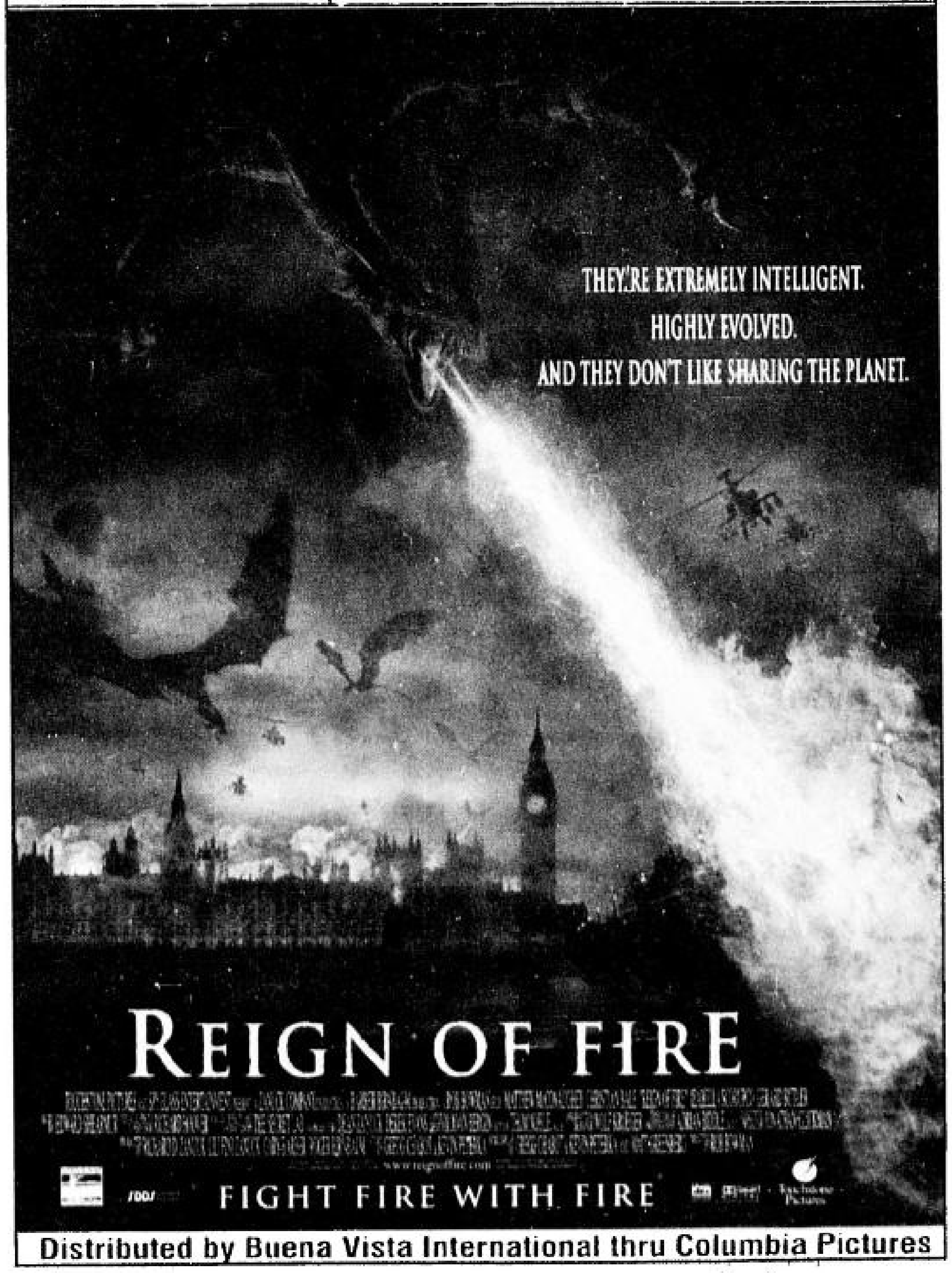

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HIGHLY EVOLVED.
AND THEY DON'T LIKE SHARING THE PLANET.
REIGN OF FIRE
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FIGHT FIRE WITH FIRE
Touchstone Pictures
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Janno headlines Crossover concert

JANNO Gibbs is popularly known for his wacky roles on TV and his larger-than-life portrayals in comedy flicks, plus his regular stint as host in GMA 7's Sunday noontime variety show, "Sop." But more than these, he is an exceptional singer.

Followers of Janno will again have a chance to enjoy his music as 105.1 Crossover brings him back for another "Crossover Presents" concert, Sept. 12, Thursday, at Captain's Bar of the Mandarin Oriental.

Catch Janno perform engaging tunes such as "I'd Rather" by Luther Vandross, "Can't Buy Me Love" by Blackstreet and Al Jarreau's "Your Song."

Joining Janno onstage is talented singer-comedienne Mitch Valdez, with first-rate musicians Mel Villena on saxophone, Sonny Azurin on bass, Cesar Aguas on guitar, Nino Regalado on drums and Gerard Salonga as musical director.

Vocal group The Opera provides backup, while instrumental group Da Capo starts off the show at 8 p.m. with favorite contemporary jazz tunes.

For ticket inquiries, call the Crossover office at 731-1667, Ticket World at 891-5610 and Captain's Bar of the Mandarin Oriental at 750-8888.

MUSIC AND COMEDY. Singer Janno Gibbs and comedienne Mitch Valdez share the Captain's Bar stage.

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CINEMA 1
BOURNE IDENTITY
11:30, 2:05, 4:40, 7:15, 10:00
P13

CINEMA 2
SIGNS
12:10, 2:35, 5:00, 7:25, 9:50
P13

All Reserved Seating: P120.00
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Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

LILO & STITCH GP 1:30,3:30,5:30, 7:30,9:30	BOURNE IDENTITY P13 11:30,2:00,4:30, 7:00,9:30	AUSTIN POWERS P13 1:20,3:30,5:40, 7:50,10:00
SIGNS P13 12:50,3:10,5:30, 7:50,10:10	THE ROOKIE GP 1:00,3:50, 6:40, 9:30	BOURNE IDENTITY P13 12:30,3:00,5:30, 8:00,10:30

MATINEE P80.00 - FREE SEATING - SCREENINGS BEFORE 5 PM - MON. TO FRI.

OPENS SEPTEMBER 11 !
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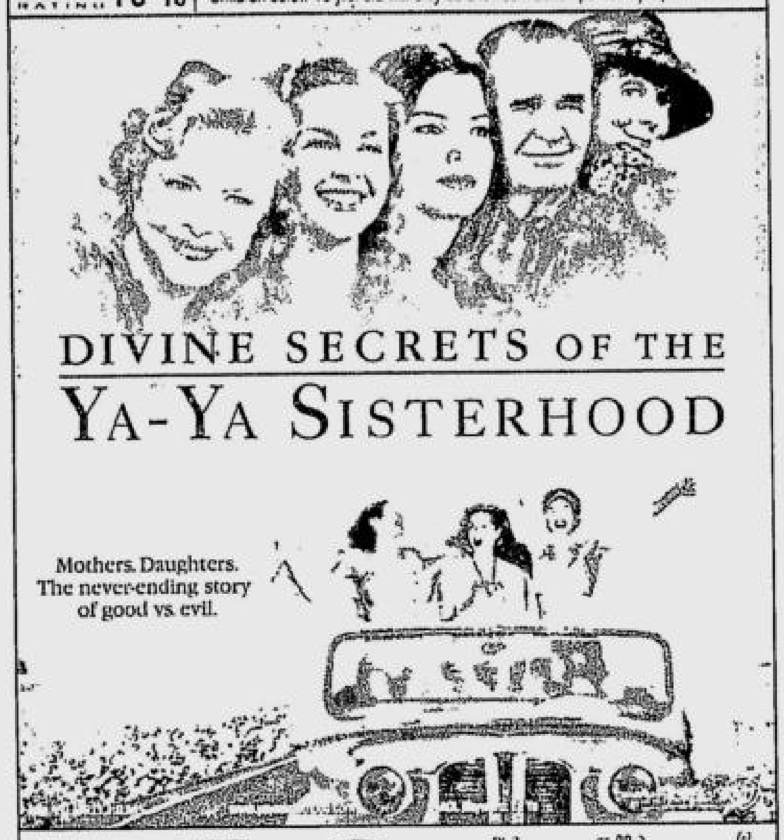

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YA-YA SISTERHOOD
Mothers. Daughters. The never-ending story of good vs. evil.
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From the Creator of
THE ACCIDENTAL SPY and RUSH HOUR 2
JACKIE CHAN
BRADLEY ALLAN
"HIGH-VOLTAGE ENTERTAINMENT FAST, FURIOUS AND FEVERISHLY FUNNY."
Golden Harvest
A Jackie Chan Film
HIGH RISK
GOLDEN HARVEST FILM PRESENT A JACKIE CHAN FILM JACKIE CHAN BRADLEY ALLAN
TONY LEUNG EMIL CHOW RICHIE REN SHU QUI PRODUCED BY JACKIE CHAN
DIRECTOR OF CINEMATOGRAPHY DIETRICH LOHMANN MUSIC BY HANS ZIMMER
SCREENPLAY BY MICHAEL SCHIFFER FILM EDITOR DAVID ROSENBLOOM
PRODUCTION DESIGNER LESLIE DILLEY STORY BY ANDREW COCKBURN
DIRECTED BY VINCENT COOK

AWARD WINNING DIRECTOR ZHANG YIMOU'S "HAPPY TIMES" AT
AYALA CINEMAS
ArtFilm Greenbelt 1

Critically-acclaimed Chinese director Zhang Yimou's latest masterpiece "HAPPY TIMES," a light-hearted look at life and the pursuit of love and happiness, will have its exclusive screening at ArtFilm - Greenbelt 1 starting September 4

The director has a long history of well-received films. Zhang made his directorial debut in 1988 with "Red Sorghum." The film won the Golden Bear Award for Best Picture at the 1989 Berlin Film Festival. He went to direct several more films including "Ju Dou" (1990) which was nominated for an Oscar in 1991; "Raise the Red Lantern" (1991) which was awarded the Silver Lion at the Venice Film Festival & was also nominated for an Academy Award, "The Story of Qiu Ju" (1992) which won the Golden Lion at the 1992 Venice Film Festival; "To Live" (1994) which won the Grand Jury Prize & Best Actor Award at the 1994 Cannes Film Festival, and "Shanghai Triad," which was an Official Selection in Cannes in 1995 and received the Best Foreign Language Film prize from the National Board Review

If you adored the last two films of Zhang: "Not One Less" and "The Road Home", which were both screened at ArtFilm don't you dare miss his latest masterpiece "Happy Times" shown only at ArtFilm - Greenbelt 1.

For sreening times, call 729-7777
Schedules are subject to change without prior notice
AYALA CINEMAS NOW SHOWING

G1 GLORIETTA 1	G4 GLORIETTA 4	GB1 GREENBELT 1	GB3 GREENBELT 3	ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1 SIGNS	1 AUSTIN POWERS IN GOLDMEMBER	THE YIN-YANG MASTER (EXCLUSIVE)	1 SIGNS 12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:45, 12:00	1 THE BOURNE IDENTITY
2 THE BOURNE IDENTITY	2 THE BOURNE IDENTITY	HAPPY TIMES (Exclusive)	2 THE BOURNE IDENTITY 1:00, 3:45, 6:30, 9:15, 12:00	2 THE ROOKIE
3 LILO & STITCH	3 SIGNS 12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:45, 12:00	Onstage GARY V: HITS @ ONSTAGE - SEP. 6,20, 26 & 27	3 THE ROOKIE 10:50, 1:20, 3:50, 6:20, 8:50, 11:20	3 SIGNS
4 JOLOGS	4 UNFAITHFUL		4 AUSTIN POWERS IN GOLDMEMBER 11:10, 1:10, 3:10, 5:10, 7:10, 9:10, 11:10	4 AUSTIN POWERS IN GOLDMEMBER
	5 THE ROOKIE		5 THE BOURNE IDENTITY 12:20, 3:05, 5:50, 8:35, 11:20	5 JOLOGS
	6 THE BOURNE IDENTITY			
	7 TRIPLE X			

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MTRCB RATING R RESTRICTED Strictly for ADULTS No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted.

Maui Taylor
1st
LOVE
KISS
TIME
HIT
Gamitan
Gamitan
VIVA

directed by QUARK HENARES
FIRST PA RIN SA TAKILYA! NOW SHOWING!

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101	
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	JOLOGS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	GAMITAN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	BOURNE IDENTITY
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	SIGNS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	TRIPLE X
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	HIGH EXPLOSIVES
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	HIGH RISK
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	BAKAT
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	BOURNE IDENTITY
FIESTA CARNIVAL	
NEW FRONTIER	
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	TAMPISAW / PHANTOM OF OPERA
ODEON	BOURNE IDENTITY
ODEON-2	SCORPION KING / LABRADOR
ROBEN	BAKAT
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	MAGINOO / MAGESTIC
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET-2	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
QUEZON-1	GAMITAN
REMAR	BAKAT
REMAR-2	GAMITAN
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	BAKAT
B	
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	EIGA SAI 2002: LIFE, LOVE & LAUGHTER
CINEMA-2	AUSTIN POWERS GOLD MEMBER
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	BAKAT
CINEMA-2	DERAILED
CINEMA-3	JOLOGS
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	SPIRIT
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	GAMITAN
CINEMA-6	UNFAITHFUL
CINEMA-7	BOURNE IDENTITY
CINEMA-8	AUSTIN POWERS
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	TRIPLE X
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BOURNE IDENTITY
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	SIGNS
CINEMA-12	HIGH RISK
CINEMA-14	HIGH EXPLOSIVES
CINEMA-15	JOLOGS
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-3	
CINEMA-4	
CINEMA-5	
CINEMA-6	
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PINAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

HOLLYWOOD IN BRISBANE
Cesar Montano poses with Hollywood actor Joseph Fiennes (left) and Ebong Joson, his costars in the Hollywood movie, "The Great Raid," now being filmed in Brisbane, Australia. Fiennes plays Major Gibson, while Joson is Cesar's fellow Filipino guerilla. The three actors are on the set of the Platero village, where their characters plan the raid. The $150-million Miramax production recreates the World War II battle in Cabanatuan, Nueva Ecija. The film is directed by John Dahl. At right, Cesar is Capt. Juan Pajota, leader of the Filipino guerilla force that fought with the American troops in the Philippines during World War II. Also in the cast are Benjamin Bratt, James Franco and Paolo Montalban.

CA affirms injunction against Luchi Valdes, ABS-CBN

By Marinel R. Cruz

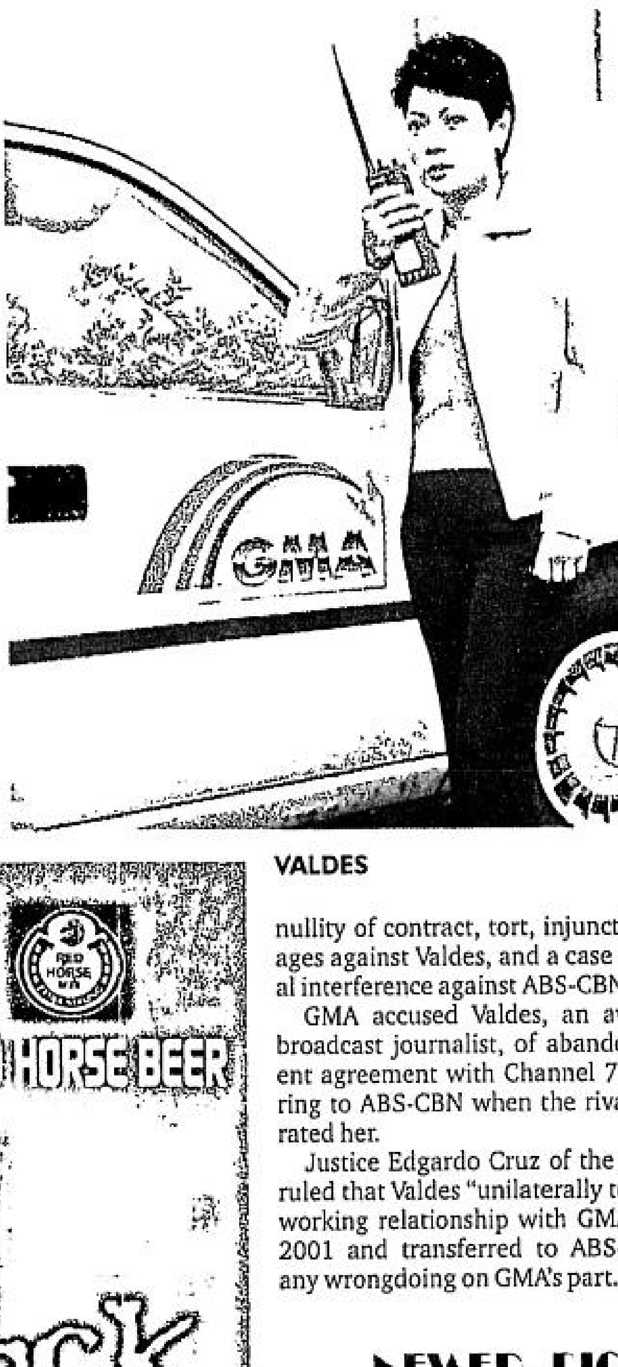
GMA NETWORK Inc. gained considerable legal ground in the bitter turf war with rival giant ABS-CBN when the Court of Appeals upheld the ruling of a Quezon City court and dismissed the petition for preliminary injunction that would have cleared the way for ex-GMA talent Luisita "Luchi" Cruz-Valdes to work with ABS-CBN.

The CA's sixteenth division on Aug. 16 affirmed the order of the QC Regional Trial Court prohibiting ABS-CBN and Valdes from carrying out their contract, where Valdes was supposed to take over as ABS-CBN vice president for news, even when she was still bound by a talent agreement with GMA 7.

The INQUIRER tried to reach Valdes for comment, but Pam Munji, Valdes' executive secretary, said she is in Boracay attending a management planning conference and will be back in Manila on Sept. 9.

ABS-CBN Channel 2 and GMA Channel 7 are the biggest broadcast networks in the country and have been been locked in a bitter conflict for more than a decade.

GMA 7 last year filed with the QC RTC a case for breach of contract, declaration of nullity of contract, tort, injunction and damages against Valdes, and a case for contractual interference against ABS-CBN.



VALDES

GMA accused Valdes, an award-winning broadcast journalist, of abandoning her talent agreement with Channel 7 and transferring to ABS-CBN when the rival network pirated her.

Justice Edgardo Cruz of the appeals court ruled that Valdes "unilaterally terminated her working relationship with GMA on Nov. 15, 2001 and transferred to ABS-CBN without any wrongdoing on GMA's part."

Judge Rogelio M. Pizarro of QC RTC Branch 222 earlier said that Valdes' talent agreement with GMA from Aug. 20, 2001 to Aug. 19, 2002 still existed when she transferred to the rival network.

In his ruling, Pizarro held that "ABS-CBN pirated Valdes not only for her expertise in her field, but also for the experience and insights she acquired during her stint with GMA."

According to Channel 7 lawyer Gener Asuncion, Valdes attended several GMA strategic planning seminars before she was pirated by ABS-CBN.

He said one of the seminars was on "how to win against its rival network."

That was why on Jan. 16, 2002, Pizarro issued a writ of preliminary injunction to prevent Valdes from disclosing GMA's confidential information and trade secrets to ABS-CBN, Asuncion said.

He said Valdes was reportedly told by ABS-CBN that she could work as the network's vice president for news and at the same time continue with her talent agreement with GMA.

"We cannot allow that because there will surely be a transfer of GMA's vital information, systems, plans, strategies to ABS-CBN," he said.

When ABS-CBN and Valdes went to the Court of Appeals, they questioned Pizarro's injunction, arguing that the court "gravely abused its discretion" while the judge "relied upon non-existent facts and disregarded their evidence."

ABS-CBN and Valdes also argued that the talent agreement was no longer existing and that GMA had already called off the talent agreement when the network did not give Valdes any more assignments.

But Asuncion said that was not the case.

He said GMA News and Public Affairs head Marissa Flores informed Valdes of the course of action the network would take once Valdes resigned as GMA's production unit manager for news.

The network sent Valdes a letter demanding her to respect and comply with her talent agreement with the company.

"But (Valdes) told Marissa she had already gone too far down the road to turn back," Asuncion said. "(Valdes) probably had already committed herself to ABS-CBN."

Valdes' lawyer Ayo Bautista said his client is now considering two options after the court dismissed her petition. The first is to file a motion for reconsideration with the Court Appeals and the other is to proceed with the trial in the lower court.

"The writ of preliminary injunction has already lapsed," Bautista said. "Luchi has been reporting for work at ABS-CBN since August."

The sixteenth division of the Court of Appeals is composed of Justice Hilario Aquino, chair, Justices Edgardo Cruz and Regalado Maambong, members.

SEPTEMBER-SWEPT!
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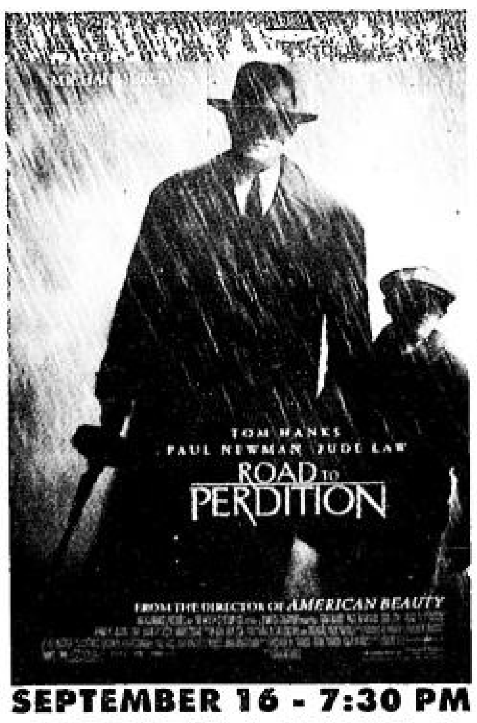
ROBINSONS GALLERIA
CINEMA 6

DIVINE SECRETS OF THE
YA-YA SISTERHOOD

SEPTEMBER 10 - 7:30 PM
POWER PLANT CINEMA 6



SEPTEMBER 16 - 7:30 PM
GLORIETTA 4 CINEMA 6

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SEPTEMBER 18 - MUSIC WAREHOUSE (MANILA)
SEPTEMBER 19 - BIG FELLA GRILL & MUSIC BAR (BETTERLIVING, PARANAQUE)
SEPTEMBER 21 - LATITUDE BAR (ZAMBOANGA CITY)
SEPTEMBER 22 - SHOOTERS BILLIARD HALL (ZAMBOANGA CITY)
SEPTEMBER 25 - MUSIC WAREHOUSE (BALUAG, BULACAN)
SEPTEMBER 26 - COC MUSIC GARDEN (CARRIEDO, MANILA)
SEPTEMBER 30 - SOUND STAGE (CAINTA, RIZAL)
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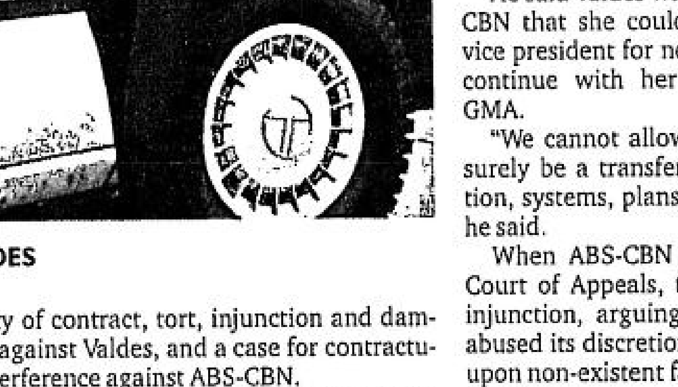

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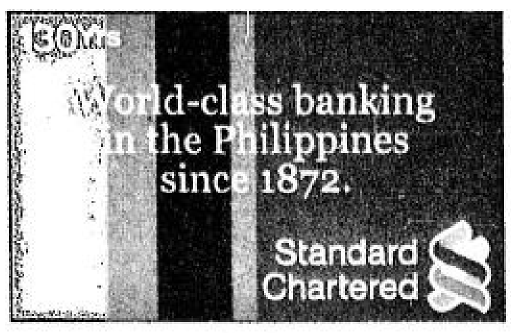

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August inflation inches up to 2.9%

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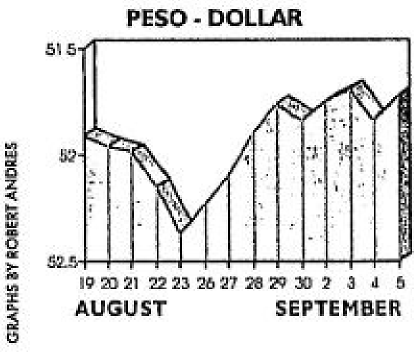

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GOLD: $316.50/317

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Shares rise 0.4%

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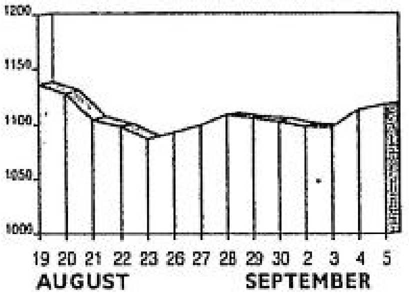
AFP

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B4)

By Doris C. Dumlao

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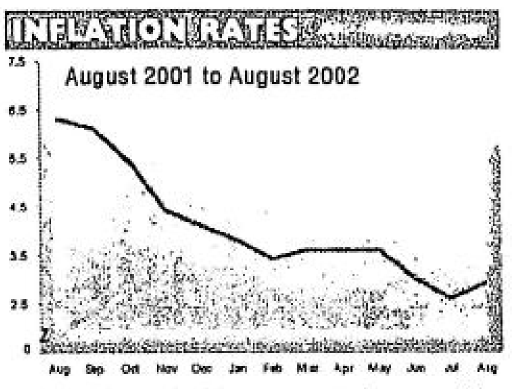
The August level brought the country's eight-month average to 3.3 percent or still way below the government's target range of 4.5-5.5 percent for 2002.

"It's higher than consensus but we can still say prices remain stable because it wasn't too far off from expectations," said AB Capital economic analyst Jose Vistan.

The NSO reported that the year-on-year increase in the consumer price index, or the basket of commodities commonly used by local households, was mainly caused by a 0.6-percentage point rise in the index for food, beverage and tobacco to 2.2 percent in August.

INFLATION RATES



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On the other hand, the indices for clothing, housing and repairs as well as miscellaneous items softened to 2.5 percent, 4.7 percent and 1.7 percent, respectively, from 2.6 percent, 4.8 percent and 1.8 percent while the inflation for services remained stable at 4.5 percent.

The inflation rate for Metro Manila rebounded to 3.1 percent in August from 2.9 percent in July while that for the provinces rose to 2.9 percent from 2.5 percent.

Sergio Ortiz-Luis Jr., president of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industries, said the uptick in inflation would not be a cause for alarm as long as the rate stayed below 10 percent.

"But the complaint among enterprises now is not on inflation rate or interest rates but on access to credit," Ortiz-Luis said.

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Congress to check tax payments of Subic car importers

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

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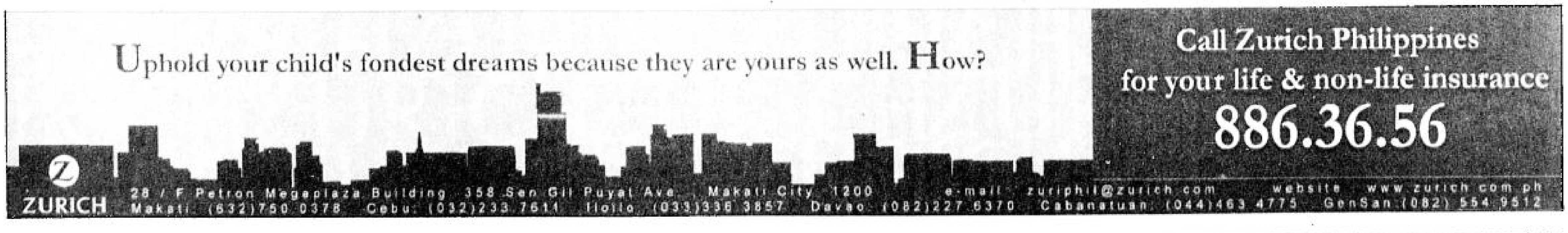
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INFLATION WORRIES

BSP drops plan to cut rates

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas yesterday said that while the higher-than-expected inflation rate in August was not worrisome, monetary authorities have decided to drop any plans to cut interest rates this year.

"We have sufficient room to keep policy rates steady. However, the rate cut we were nursing earlier may have to be abandoned," BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said.

The BSP chief said in late August that the inflation rate for the month would likely range between 2.4 and 2.6 percent. But a slight uptick in food prices proved the central bank governor wrong as the consumer price index rose to 2.9 percent from 2.6 percent in July.

Buenaventura stressed that the higher inflation in August would not affect the government's revised full-year forecast of 4.5-5.5 percent. Most likely, he said, full-year inflation would range from 2.9 to 3 percent.

"The inflation in August should have no immediate impact given that the rate is still way below target although it reinforces our neutral stance taken in the early part of the year," the BSP chief said.

Overnight rates of 7 percent for borrowing and 9.25 percent for lending are the lowest in 10 years. The BSP policy rates together with the 91-day treasury bill rate influence bank lending charges.

Buenaventura also pointed to a growing fiscal slippage as a factor that was affecting the plans of monetary authorities to relax overnight rates and follow any monetary easing that the US Federal Reserve might undertake.

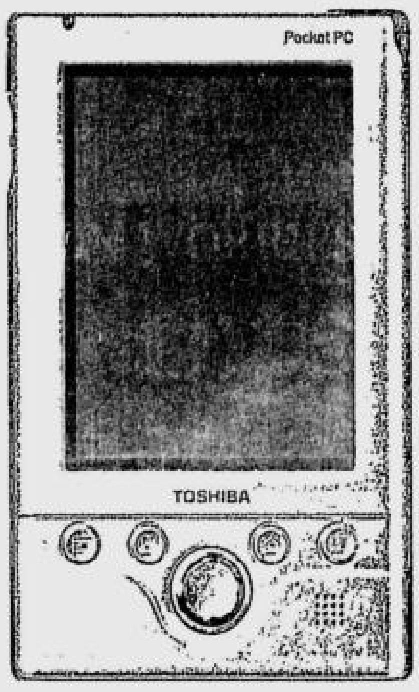
"If the Fed makes a symbolic cut, we might as well stay with our present level, which is not so bad because our rates have remained low," the BSP chief noted two weeks ago.

In late July, Buenaventura, who chairs the policy-making Monetary Board, made a bold forecast that the US Fed would likely ease rates in the coming months to spur the recovery of the US economy that suffered from what looked like a relapse.

Buenaventura said then that any move in the United States to cut rates might be matched by local monetary authorities given the country's low inflation rate. As of July, the inflation rate of 2.6 percent was the lowest in 30 months.

PGI EXECS CALL ON ENERGY CHIEF

Energy Secretary Vincent Perez Jr. (second from right) poses with the new officials of Philippine Geothermal Inc. (PGI) during their courtesy call on the energy official. Led by new PGI president Barry S. Andrews (right), the officials include PGI executive vice president Luli H. de Leon, senior vice president and general manager Antonio Yee (left) and PGI senior consultant for commercial affairs Ed Sevilla. PGI, which pioneered geothermal energy exploration and development in the country, is the Philippine subsidiary of Unocal Corp., one of the world's leading energy and project development companies.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Equitable selling thrift bank unit to East West Bank

By Elena R. Torrijos

EQUITABLE PCI Bank is selling Ecology Savings Bank Inc., one of its thrift bank units, to East West Banking Corp. of the Gotianun family.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, Equitable PCI said it has written the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas seeking clearance to negotiate with East West for the sale of all of the equity interest in Ecology Savings through EBC Strategic Holdings Corp.

"Such conveyance, with EBC Strategic Holdings Corp. as seller and East West Banking Corp. as buyer, shall be documented via a mutually acceptable definitive Share Purchase Agreement," the bank said.

If it pushes through, the sale of Ecology, which has 30 branches nationwide, would boost East West's branch network from 39 to 69.

East West is a small-sized bank with a capital base of roughly P2.7 billion.

This would be the second thrift bank to be sold by Equitable PCI Bank since it disposed of PCI Savings Bank to HSBC in December 1999.

The sale is expected to boost Equitable PCI Bank's capital base, which had been under pressure following the adverse publicity from the bank's connection to then President Estrada's impeachment trial in 2000 and early 2001.

Equitable PCI Bank is currently looking to raise as much as P6 billion in the form of tier 2 capital.

Equitable PCI Bank is largely owned by the Go family and government financial institutions, namely, the Social Security System and the Government Service Insurance System.

BSP chief, execs at corporate governance forum

ELEVEN of the country's top business executives and government economic managers are lined up to speak today at the International Forum on Ethical Business Practice, which will focus on corporate governance, at the Tower Club, Philamlife Building in Makati.

Heading the powerhouse lineup are Governor Rafael Buenaventura of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, Jesus Estanislao who chairs the Presidential Governance Advisory Council, and Julie Freeman, world president of the International Association of Business Communicators (IABC), which organized the forum.

The latest addition to the speakers lineup is Rep. Teodoro L. Locsin Jr., former presidential spokesperson, political columnist, TV show host, Harvard law school alumnus, and first-term congressman of Makati's first district, who is expected to present the current thinking in Congress on corporate governance and other measures to curb boardroom wrongdoing and other cases of irresponsible business conduct.

Also speaking at the daylong forum are Ernest Leung, president of the Philippine Stock Exchange; Securities Exchange Commissioner Joselia Poblador; Jerry Isla, chair of PricewaterhouseCoopers Philippines; Petron president Motassim Al-Ma'ashouq and vice president Jose Campos; Watson Wyatt managing director Jose Jesus Deduque; IABC Asia Pacific regional director Bish Mukherjee, and Mirant Philippines Foundation executive director Roberto Calingo.

The event is held in cooperation with Tower Club and is sponsored by Mirant Philippines, the Philippine Daily Inquirer, Business World, San Miguel Corp., Ayala Corp., Bank of the Philippine Islands, Meralco, Petron Corp., and Oakwood Premier.

Corporate governance is the focus of the forum, including transparency and disclosure, accountability and audit, minority stockholders' representation, and conflicts of interest. Since responsible business conduct also extends to workplace and employee concerns, consumer rights, clean technology and environmental impact, these topics will be taken up in the afternoon session.

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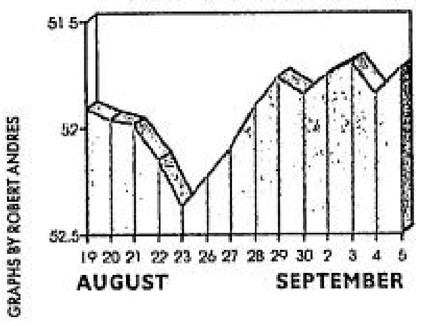

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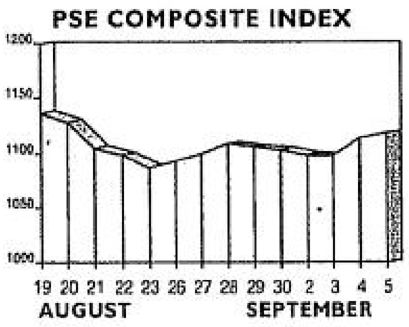

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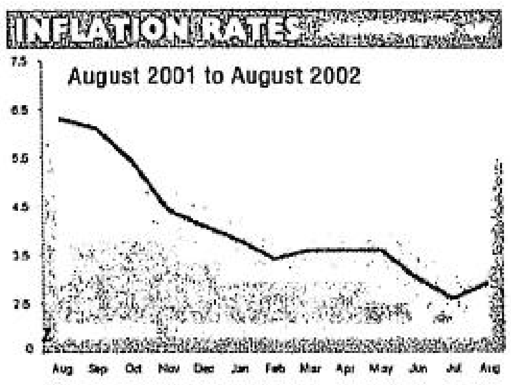

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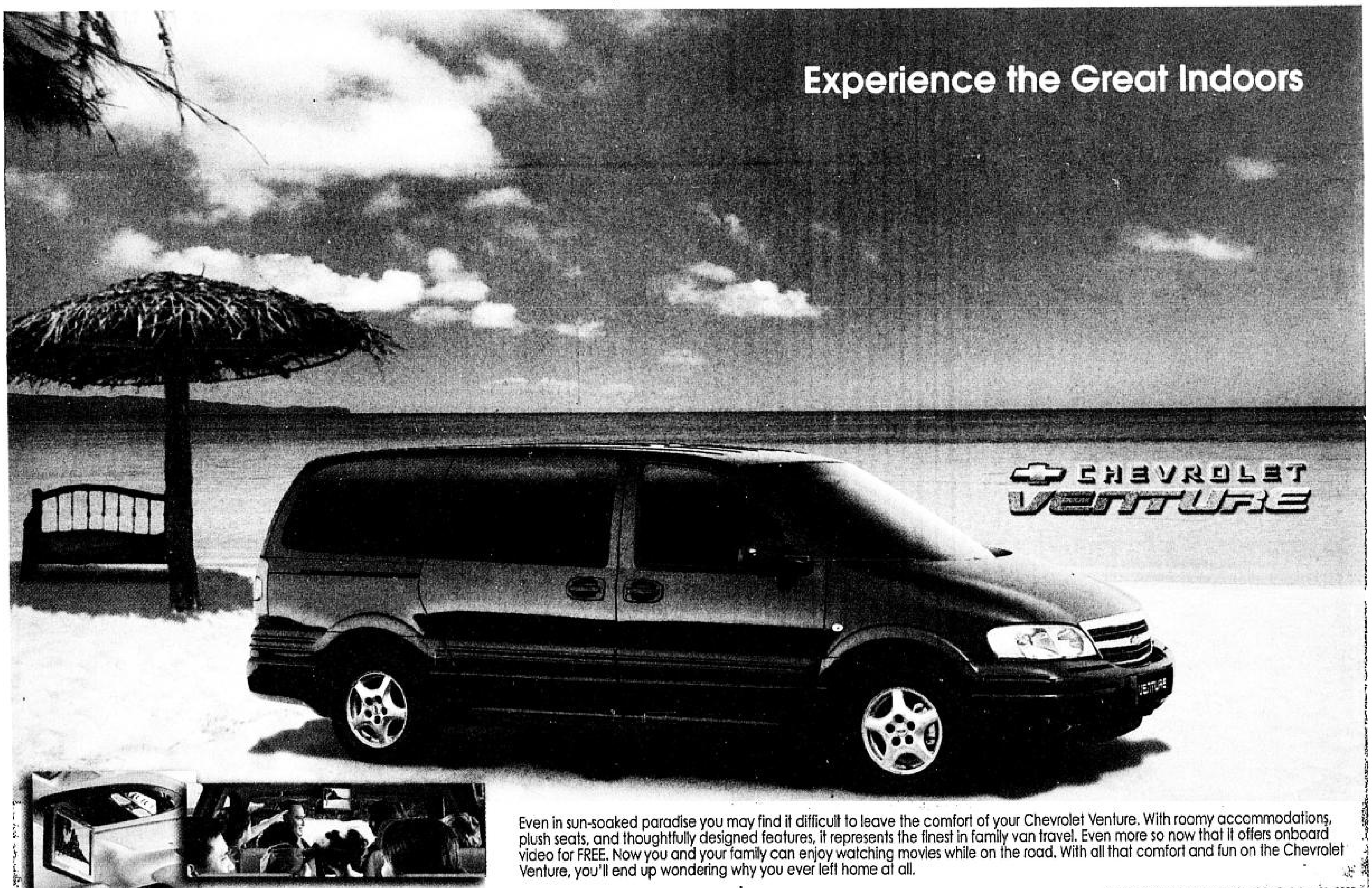

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INFLATION WORRIES

BSP drops plan to cut rates

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The BSP chief said in late August that the inflation rate for the month would likely range between 2.4 and 2.6 percent. But a slight uptick in food prices proved the central bank governor wrong as the consumer price index rose to 2.9 percent from 2.6 percent in July.

Buenaventura stressed that the higher inflation in August would not affect the government's revised full-year forecast of 4.5-5.5 percent. Most likely, he said, full-year inflation would range from 2.9 to 3 percent.

"The inflation in August should have no immediate impact given that the rate is still way below target although it reinforces our neutral stance taken in the early part of the year," the BSP chief said.

Overnight rates of 7 percent for borrowing and 9.25 percent for lending are the lowest in 10 years. The BSP policy rates together with the 91-day treasury bill rate influence bank lending charges.

Buenaventura also pointed to a growing fiscal slippage as a factor that was affecting the plans of monetary authorities to relax overnight rates and follow any monetary easing that the US Federal Reserve might undertake.

"If the Fed makes a symbolic cut, we might as well stay with our present level, which is not so bad because our rates have remained low," the BSP chief noted two weeks ago.

In late July, Buenaventura, who chairs the policy-making Monetary Board, made a bold forecast that the US Fed would likely ease rates in the coming months to spur the recovery of the US economy that suffered from what looked like a relapse.

Buenaventura said then that any move in the United States to cut rates might be matched by local monetary authorities given the country's low inflation rate. As of July, the inflation rate of 2.6 percent was the lowest in 30 months.

PGI EXECS CALL ON ENERGY CHIEF

Energy Secretary Vincent Perez Jr. (second from right) poses with the new officials of Philippine Geothermal Inc. (PGI) during their courtesy call on the energy official. Led by new PGI president Barry S. Andrews (right), the officials include PGI executive vice president Luli H. de Leon, senior vice president and general manager Antonio Yee (left) and PGI senior consultant for commercial affairs Ed Sevilla. PGI, which pioneered geothermal energy exploration and development in the country, is the Philippine subsidiary of Unocal Corp., one of the world's leading energy and project development companies.

Equitable selling thrift bank unit to East West Bank

By Elena R. Torrijos

EQUITABLE PCI Bank is selling Ecology Savings Bank Inc., one of its thrift bank units, to East West Banking Corp. of the Gotianun family.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, Equitable PCI said it has written the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas seeking clearance to negotiate with East West for the sale of all of the equity interest in Ecology Savings through EBC Strategic Holdings Corp.

"Such conveyance, with EBC Strategic Holdings Corp. as seller and East West Banking Corp. as buyer, shall be documented via a mutually acceptable definitive Share Purchase Agreement," the bank said.

If it pushes through, the sale of Ecology, which has 30 branches nationwide, would boost East West's branch network from 39 to 69.

East West is a small-sized bank with a capital base of roughly P2.7 billion.

This would be the second thrift bank to be sold by Equitable PCI Bank since it disposed of PCI Savings Bank to HSBC in December 1999.

The sale is expected to boost Equitable PCI Bank's capital base, which had been under pressure following the adverse publicity from the bank's connection to then President Estrada's impeachment trial in 2000 and early 2001.

Equitable PCI Bank is currently looking to raise as much as P6 billion in the form of tier 2 capital.

Equitable PCI Bank is largely owned by the Go family and government financial institutions, namely, the Social Security System and the Government Service Insurance System.

BSP chief, execs at corporate governance forum

ELEVEN of the country's top business executives and government economic managers are lined up to speak today at the International Forum on Ethical Business Practice, which will focus on corporate governance, at the Tower Club, Philamlife Building in Makati.

Heading the powerhouse lineup are Governor Rafael Buenaventura of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, Jesus Estanislao who chairs the Presidential Governance Advisory Council, and Julie Freeman, world president of the International Association of Business Communicators (IABC), which organized the forum.

The latest addition to the speakers lineup is Rep. Teodoro L. Locsin Jr., former presidential spokesperson, political columnist, TV show host, Harvard law school alumnus, and first-term congressman of Makati's first district, who is expected to present the current thinking in Congress on corporate governance and other measures to curb boardroom wrongdoing and other cases of irresponsible business conduct.

Also speaking at the daylong forum are Ernest Leung, president of the Philippine Stock Exchange; Securities Exchange Commissioner Joselia Poblador; Jerry Isla, chair of PricewaterhouseCoopers Philippines; Petron president Motassim Al-Ma'ashouq and vice president Jose Campos; Watson Wyatt managing director Jose Jesus Deduque; IABC Asia Pacific regional director Bish Mukherjee, and Mirant Philippines Foundation executive director Roberto Calingo.

The event is held in cooperation with Tower Club and is sponsored by Mirant Philippines, the Philippine Daily Inquirer, Business World, San Miguel Corp., Ayala Corp., Bank of the Philippine Islands, Meralco, Petron Corp., and Oakwood Premier.

Corporate governance is the focus of the forum, including transparency and disclosure, accountability and audit, minority stockholders' representation, and conflicts of interest. Since responsible business conduct also extends to workplace and employee concerns, consumer rights, clean technology and environmental impact, these topics will be taken up in the afternoon session.

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Gov't to save over P1.4B from revamp

BUDGET Secretary Emilia Boncodin said yesterday the government could save about P1.4 billion from the planned abolition of 13 state agencies.

The savings, however, may be offset by billions worth of retirement packages for government employees who will be laid off.

Boncodin said 6,851 employees affected by the second wave of the government's reorganization plan would get "very generous separation benefits."

A finance official, who requested anonymity, said the cost of terminating the services of these employees could "go anywhere from P1 billion to P20 billion."

Boncodin stressed, however, that the Presidential Commission on Effective Governance had yet to finalize its list of agencies that would be abolished.

Early this year, 77 agencies and task forces attached to the Office of the President were abolished, saving the government some P56 million in salaries and overhead expenses yearly but also left 110 people without jobs.

The agencies set to be abolished under the Department of Trade and Industry are the International Coffee Organization Certifying Agency, Bonded Export Marketing Bond and the Construction Manpower Development Foundation.

The government is also abolishing the Bureaus of Maintenance and Equipment under the Department of Public Works and Highways, and the Telecommunications Office and the Office of Transport Cooperatives under the Department of Transportation and Communications.

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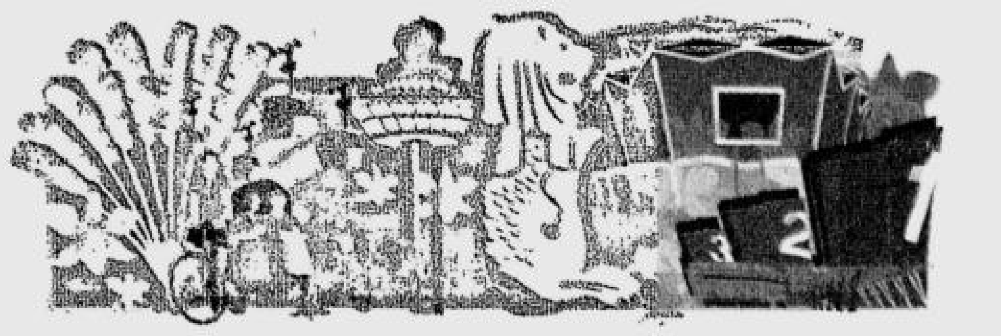
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2 – 4 Oct
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29 Oct – 1 Nov
☐ **OSEA 2002**
Suntec Singapore
Website:
http://www.osea-asia.com
Estimated no. of visitors: **7,000**
Estimated no. of participating companies: **900**

OSEA 2002 brings together manufacturers and suppliers of products, services and technologies associated with petroleum exploration, production, refining and processing as well as marine engineering. The event also incorporates RLP Asia 2002 (Asian International Refining LNG & Petrochemical Technology Exhibition and Conference) and WeldTech Asia 2002 (International Welding, Surface Treatment and Joining Technology Exhibition).

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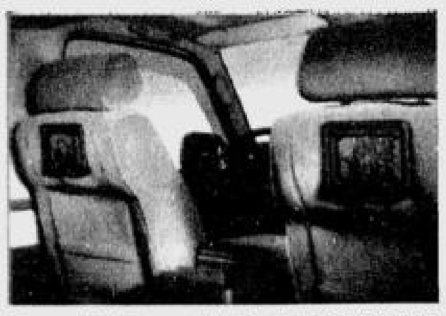
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Labor unions in government

LABOR MANAGEMENT FORUM

Josephus B. Jimenez

THE UNTIMELY resignations of Education Secretary Raul Roco and BIR chief Rene Bañez, like last year's departure of Lani Nañagas from the SSS, were triggered by the unions' concerted actions. Roco was charged by the union with graft. Bañez and Nañagas were besieged by people power. Since the three executives were perceived as prized catches of the GMA administration, aside from the fact that they are all crusaders for meaningful reforms, certain quarters in the civil society are prone to blame the unions for driving such fine gentlemen away.

But if we rise above our passing passions and analyze the matter from a higher perspective, the nation can learn valuable lessons from such unfortunate events. The unions were only playing the roles expected of them. Union leaders believed that they are only doing what they feel are their duties to their members. We cannot blame the unions just like that. Government executives should be able to live harmoniously even with the most difficult union leaders.

Public sector unionism

While Philippine trade unionism in the private sector is as old as Gregorio Aglipay, who along with Isabelo delos Reyes organized in 1901 the first union against the oppressive regimes of the Spanish and American businessmen, unions in government were given major impetus only by President Aquino in 1986 under Executive Order No. 180.

Unions in government flowered under the post-Edsa 1 climate of reinvigorated spirit of libertarianism. Public school teachers marched and demonstrated against then Education Secretary Cid Cariño. Tourism employees just recently rallied and picketed against Dick Gordon. Then it was Nañagas, Roco and Bañez.

Management of change

Roco's reforms and Bañez's initiatives were all motivated by noble intentions. The Nañagas crusade for reforms in the SSS was a long awaited intervention in that beleaguered agency. But their fatal mistake was their failure to match their objectives with the correct strategy. And they didn't favor themselves with expert advise on how to deal with government unions. They underestimated the power of the people under the banner of vigilant unionism.

They may be topnotch corporate lawyers, world-class bankers and experts in finance and economics, but it takes an experienced labor relations practitioner to plan, strategize and manage the dynamics of labor relations in a government agency. Raul may have dealt with unions in San Miguel but public sector trade unions are a different cup of tea. They should have hired an expert to shield them from the "slings and arrows" of a broken labor-management relations.

Failure to communicate

Raul Roco is an accomplished public speaker, literary writer and seasoned debater, but he failed to link with Attorney Alidon, a very easy person to please. He just failed to give the union president a little importance. Bañez is an expert in finance but, sad to say, a failure in human relations. He failed to establish rapport with Mr. Salazar, BNP union president, a very easy guy to talk to.

Nañagas is supposedly a nice fellow. But when he spoke in PMAP (Personnel Management Association of the Philippines), he did not strike us as one who can rally to his side the rank-and-file. The audience asked him many pointed questions regarding alleged SSS anomalies and inefficiencies. Instead of using it as an opportunity to connect, he somehow took it negatively. The difference in Cora de la Paz, who also appeared in PMAP later, is that the lady humbled herself by inviting us to a dialogue. There lies the difference between a supposedly bright guy and a brilliant communicator.

Air of corporate arrogance

That aura of business snobbishness, developed perhaps by staying too long in the corporate jungles in Makati and Ortigas, do turn off union leaders. Too much fixations for business protocol and the so-called executive look of feigned propriety and cold aloofness can irritate people, especially the small subordinates who need to see them but cannot.

Why can't these upwardly business executives, who go into government service, follow the model of JoeCon, a known trillionaire who became trade secretary. JoeCon was held in high esteem by the small guys because he knows how to respect people. Ting Paterno was well accepted by the PNOC unions. And the DOH employees just loved Flavier because he made them feel good about themselves.

Unions are us

Unions are not the enemies. They are our partners for peace. Unions belong to us. They are our people. They have a place in the scheme of things. They have a reason for being. Many of them were created precisely due to the arrogance of some men in power. Others were formed as a weapon of the weak against the powers of the strong. Unions cannot be eliminated because the small guys always need protection. They become irrelevant only when the workers see that the top guns are treating them well. But no matter what, they can be talked to. They can be persuaded. And they can become our strongest allies.

For more than 20 years, I worked in big companies like San Miguel, Pepsi, Petron and PNOC. I also worked in the Department of Labor.

I met and dealt with unions, from the most radical to the most moderate. I found them more engaging, more humane and more genuine than some pretentious business executives who earned their right to be arrogant via an Ivy League diploma. Union leaders are people. Unions are us. We've to live productively with them.

Government and unions

Government and unions need to work together harmoniously since they both serve the people. Government officials must respect the employees' right to self-organization. Union leaders should respect the authority and always obey the laws. The rules must be clear and conflicts should be addressed with a sense of urgency.

The relationship between unions and government can flourish under a climate of mutual trust. Unions are not the problem. They are parts of the solutions. Government executives should always remember that.

Calaca to use 100% local coal

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE NATIONAL Power Corp. has decided to stop using imported coal for its 600-megawatt Calaca coal-fired power plant and will instead use fuel entirely sourced from Semirara Island.

Henry Alcalde, senior manager of the Calaca plant, said in an interview that the facility had been undergoing tests on using purely local coal since early this year.

"We decided to follow through and keep on using (all-Semirara coal) since deliveries from the mine pass specifications required by the Clean Air Act," Alcalde said.

One of Calaca's two 300-MW generators was designed to use local coal, while the other was intended for a blend of local and imported coal.

Because of this, the Calaca plant, which consumes an average of 1.2 million metric tons of local coal yearly, has become the lifeline of the local coal industry.

Victor Consunji, president of Semirara Mining Corp., said the company had invested P3 billion in new equipment over the last five years to improve the quality of its produce.

"We had to do that not only to satisfy our customer but also to firm up our business with them," Consunji said.

He said Semirara Mining had a supply contract with Napocor that was good for another eight years.

"We are also planning to invest another billion pesos to further improve the quality of our coal," Consunji added.

Compared with imported coal, local coal has generally lower heating value, although it can be competitive in terms of emission qualities when mined through efficient techniques and treated for cleansing.

Napocor said last month the Calaca plant was undergoing tests for the possible use of all-domestic coal.

A source from the state firm's fuel management department said that if the tests were successful, the plant would be the country's first plant to run exclusively on local supply.

"This move is in line with the government's policy of supporting the local coal industry," the official added.

Perez backs drive vs brand counterfeiting

JUSTICE Secretary Hernando Perez strengthened the government's drive against rampant product and brand counterfeiting following a recent move by his department to pursue several cases against a local businessman for flagrant violation of Republic Act No. 8293 or the Intellectual Property Code of the Philippines.

DOJ records show that 37 cases of RA 8293 violations were recently filed against Manolo Samson based on complaints by US-based international manufacturer Caterpillar Inc. The firm alleged that Samson had illegally copied and appropriated the design of the firm's internationally famous brand and product lines, including shoes, leather goods and other personal items.

Perez has already junked two appeals by Samson seeking the dismissal of Caterpillar's complaints. Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuño earlier approved the filing of charges against Samson as recommended by the Intellectual Property Rights Task Force of the DOJ.

Perez's and Zuño's orders followed a series of nationwide raids by agents of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) on retail outlets selling the alleged counterfeit Caterpillar products and on warehouses allegedly owned by Samson where the suspected products are hidden. Recent raids were also conducted by the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) of the Philippine National Police.

Leading intellectual property rights lawyer Gilbert Reyes of the Poblador, Bautista and Reyes Law Offices said Perez's campaign against product and brand counterfeiting "sends very important signals to the international investor community."

Reyes said the Philippines was among some 15 countries in the Priority Watchlist of notorious IPR violators. Perez's drive, Reyes said, "is an encouraging sign that the government is serious in its enforcement of intellectual property laws."

Proponents revive ₱2.8-B condo project in Fort Boni

By Doris C. Dumlao

ONE McKinley Place (OMP) Inc., a property venture between the RFM group and the Export and Industry Bank, has wiped out its debts worth P1 billion in preparation to the revival of its plush condominium project in Fort Bonifacio Global City.

In a press briefing yesterday, OMP chair Sergio Ortiz-Luis Jr. and president Raul Martinez said the liabilities, incurred to finance part of the P2.8-billion total project cost, were partly paid in cash and the rest was settled through asset-swap deals with the creditors and suppliers.

Martinez, who is also president of RFM real estate unit Philippine Townships Inc. that holds the stake in the project, said that despite the difficult business conditions, the project could still post profits by next year given the cleaning up of its balance sheets.

OMP is a 43-story upscale project with 304 residential units with size ranging from 76-350 square meters. It is expected to be completed by the middle of next year.

OMP is selling the units at a range of P95,000-P100,000/sq.m. or about P6 million to P18 million per unit.

The officials said 65 percent of the total units had been sold and buyers had put in an average equity of 40 percent of the contract price.

"Receivables from existing sales from the present to completion, even if we don't sell more units, are worth more than P1 billion," Martinez said.

Ortiz-Luis said Export Bank agreed to continue the venture with Philtown because the bank was bullish on the prospects of Fort Bonifacio.

The officials said OMP was able to convince its creditors and suppliers to accept units in OMP as payment for some of the debts.

"The creditors and suppliers all realized that the only way to recover their investments is to allow us to continue the project," Martinez said.

Of the P1 billion in debts that were wiped out, 70 percent was owed to creditor-banks, the biggest of which was the defunct Urban Bank, while 30 percent was owed to suppliers.

The project's general contractor is L&M Maxco of Singapore while the major suppliers are Kohler USA and the Concepcion family's Carrier.

About 80 percent of the OMP units are now committed to previous buyers and certain creditors, while the remaining 20 percent is still available for sale.

"As we are now debt-free and liquid, we can afford to keep these units and not resort to a fire sale," Ortiz-Luis said.

OMP had to suspend development activities since April 2000 when URDI's major shareholders, Urban Bank and Urbancorp Investment, went bankrupt and were placed under government receivership. The project was recently revived by Philtown and Export Industry Bank, which took over Urban Bank.

Congress . . .

From page B1

than P100,000 in duties for at least 10 units.

Aside from the customs payments, Congress wants to look into the excise tax payments of the Subic traders to determine whether they were paying their dues.

The questions on customs and tax payments of used vehicles expanded on the areas covered by Wednesday's hearing of the House committee on transportation and communications, which tackled the question on the legality of used, RHD vehicle imports at the Subic freeport zone in view of the national ban on RHD vehicles and restricted importation of second-hand vehicles.

The local automotive industry has insisted that the used, RHD vehicle imports were illegal under Philippine laws and that their use on Philippine roads violates safety and environment standards.

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BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	1,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	18	18.25	17.75	18.25	178,900
Bank of the Phil. Islands	45.5	45.5	44	44.5	1,271,300
China Banking Corp.	620	620	620	620	3,120
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	12,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	28.5	28.5	28	28.5	598,200
Global Business Bank Inc.	60	60	60	60	100
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	33.5	34	33.5	33.5	308,100
Philippine National Bank	32	32	32	32	100
Union Bank of the Phil.	18.5	18.5	18.5	18.5	12,000
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
First Metro Invest. Corp.	215	215	215	215	170
Manulife Financial Corp.	1150	1160	1140	1160	850
Sun Life Financial Serv.	895	900	895	900	390
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	24.5	24.5	24.5	24.5	1,600
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.52	0.52	0.51	0.51	1,150,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	490	492.5	490	492.5	2,910
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.033	0.034	0.032	0.033	6,500,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.028	0.029	0.028	0.028	10,700,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	2.75	2.75	2.75	2.75	16,000
Piltel	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	500,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	285	290	285	290	123,810
Ivantage Corp.	0.32	0.33	0.32	0.33	20,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.011	0.012	0.011	0.012	20,800,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	18.75	19.5	18.75	19.25	24,900
Manila Electric Co. B	31.5	33	31.5	32.5	826,300
Petron Corp.	1.66	1.66	1.64	1.64	1,418,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.88	0.88	0.87	0.87	120,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.42	2.42	2.42	2.42	400,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	10,000
Negros Navigation Co. Inc.	0.58	0.58	0.58	0.58	100,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	3.55	3.55	3.55	3.55	45,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Alsons Cement Corp.	0.25	0.26	0.25	0.26	260,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	180,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.5	13.5	13.25	13.25	2,774,400
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	31	31	31	31	14,100
San Miguel Corp. A	49	49	49	49	46,300
San Miguel Corp. B	51.5	52	51.5	52	852,100
Universal Robina Corp.	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	10,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	490,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg. A	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	10,000
Ayala Corp.	5.3	5.4	5.3	5.3	7,013,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	57,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	150,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.56	0.56	0.56	0.56	10,000
APC Group Inc.	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	100,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	100,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.24	0.245	0.24	0.24	3,480,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	500,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.26	1.26	1.26	1.26	2,000
First Phil Hldgs. Corp.	13.25	13.5	13.25	13.25	384,600
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.25	0.25	120,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	200,000
Ionics Inc.	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.7	10,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.59	0.59	0.59	0.59	500,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	20,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.24	0.26	0.24	0.26	4,100,000
Music Corp.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	30,000
Roxas Holdings Inc	0.73	0.73	0.73	0.73	100,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	50,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Metro Alliance Holdings	0.88	0.89	0.88	0.89	40,000
Philippine Seven Corp.	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	1,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.36	0.37	0.36	0.37	560,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	360,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	25	25	24.5	24.5	684,600
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	2,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10	10	10	10	100
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	2,000
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	4	4	4	4	15,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.8	6	5.8	5.9	5,268,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	20,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.18	0.19	0.18	0.19	200,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	300,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.185	0.185	0.18	0.18	2,810,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.16	1.16	1.14	1.16	6,764,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	1.88	1.94	1.88	1.94	260,000
Keppel Phils. Prop. Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	80,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	100,000
SM Development Corp.	0.99	0.99	0.99	0.99	50,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.6	5.6	5.4	5.6	12,206,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	30,000
Benguet Corp. A	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	50,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.175	0.175	0.175	0.175	400,000
Omico Corp.	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	3,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.014	300,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	600,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	700,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	17,000,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.029	0.029	0.029	0.029	400,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	40,000

DISCLOSURES

CENTRAL Azucarera de Tarlac denied having any knowledge that could explain the unusual price movement of its shares.

• • •

DMCI Holdings Inc. denied it was investing up to P1 billion in its subsidiary **Semirara Mining Corp.** although it was intending to make additional investments in equipment so it could increase its coal production.

• • •

APC Group Inc. denied having any knowledge that could explain the unusual price movement of its shares.

• • •

FILINVEST Development Corp. said that its subsidiary, **East West Banking Corp.**, is awaiting clearance from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas to negotiate for the sale of **EBC Strategic Holdings Corp.'s** shares in **Ecology Savings Bank.**

• • •

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission has approved the change in **Urbancorp Realty Developers Inc.'s** name into **EIB Realty Developers Inc.** but the change would not be reflected yet in the Philippine Stock Exchange's computer system until a procedure for updating stock certificates was disclosed by the company. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

CURRENCIES

Sept. 5, 2002

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.008166	1.000000	51.7090
Japan	Yen	0.008544	0.008475	0.4382
United Kingdom	Pound	1.577074	1.564300	80.8884
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.129254	0.128207	6.6295
Switzerland	Franc	0.683317	0.677782	35.0474
Canada	Dollar	0.643415	0.638203	33.0008
Singapore	Dollar	0.577051	0.572377	29.5970
Australia	Dollar	0.549050	0.544603	28.1609
Bahrain	Dinar	2.674394	2.652731	137.1701
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.268838	0.266660	13.7887
Brunei	Dollar	0.575930	0.571265	29.5395
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000114	0.000113	0.0058
Thailand	Baht	0.023896	0.023702	1.2256
UAE	Dirham	0.274502	0.272279	14.0793
Korea	Won	0.000851	0.000844	0.0436
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.991900	51.2902
Argentina	Real	0.278499	0.276243	14.2842
Brazil	Real	0.322098	0.319489	16.5205
Denmark	Kroner	0.134592	0.133502	6.9033
India	Rupee	0.020839	0.020670	1.0688
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.265335	0.263186	13.6091
Mexico	New Peso	0.101070	0.100251	5.1839
New Zealand	Dollar	0.469701	0.465896	24.0910
Norway	Kroner	0.135179	0.134084	6.9333
Pakistan	Rupee	0.017030	0.016892	0.8735
South Africa	Rand	0.094653	0.093886	4.8548
Sweden	Kroner	0.107854	0.106980	5.5318
Syria	Pound	0.022809	0.022624	1.1699
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.029530	0.029291	1.5146
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000705	0.000699	0.0361

A JAPANESE businessman wipes his head as he looks at share prices outside a securities brokerage in Tokyo Sept. 4, 2002. Tokyo's Nikkei average fell for a seventh session to close at a 19-year low, down 141.95 points or 1.54 percent at 9,075.09. Stocks stumbled as fresh data from the United States showed its manufacturing sector starting to splutter deepened fears that the locomotive of the world economy was running out of steam. REUTERS

Asian economies to find little help from rest of the world

SINGAPORE—Export-oriented Asian countries will have to turn to domestic consumption to lift growth and offset the impact of an anemic global economy, analysts said Thursday.

"We are not looking for a strong global economic rebound. We think that's highly unlikely," Robin Bew, a chief economist from the Economist Intelligence Unit, told the opening of a two-day conference on Asia's economic outlook.

"For Asia in particular, exports will be more sluggish. Consequently, it's a story for Asia needing better demand growth (domestically)," he said.

Bew said global growth "will be more sluggish than normal" as cracks began emerging in the United States.

The global outlook was "persistent weak growth . . . until at least the end of next year," he said, without giving figures.

The United States, the world's biggest economy and the prime target for Asian exports, was projected to show 2.4 percent growth in 2002 and 2.8 percent next year, he said.

The raft of US corporate scandals that started with the collapse of energy giant Enron had changed "market perceptions of about the health of the US economy."

Regional economies could also expect scant support from Japan, the biggest economy in Asia, Bew said.

"Like everywhere else in the OECD (Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development), Japan is going to slow," he said.

While the indicators were looking brighter for Japan, Bew said the country was still hurt by structural problems.

"These things are not going to go away (immediately) and they will hold the economy back." *AFP*

Japanese investment firms' capital spending falls

TOKYO—Investment by Japanese firms fell a deeper than expected 2.6 percent in April-June against the previous quarter, official data showed Thursday, casting doubts over economic growth in the country.

The Cabinet Office said in a preliminary report last week that capital expenditure fell 1.1 percent over the quarter, but the steeper decline may put a dent in revised gross domestic product (GDP) figures for the three months to June to be released next Wednesday, analysts said.

Takeshi Minami, senior economist at UFJ Tsubasa Securities, said he expected GDP to be cut to 0.4 percent from the 0.5 percent quarter-on-quarter growth the government announced Friday.

But an official with the finance ministry, which compiled the latest data, declined to comment on whether Japan's growth rate for April-June would be altered.

"The Cabinet Office includes both demand and supply sides for calculating the revised GDP figures. I cannot comment on it only by these figures," the official said.

The Finance ministry said it believed the decline in capital expenditure over the three months to June would slow in the future as companies' outlooks for the economy improve.

"A majority of firms forecast sales and earnings will improve in the second half. I think these factors will positively affect overall capital expenditure," the official said.

He also noted an increase in business confidence for the quarter to March 2003 in a separate survey.

The Finance ministry said non-financial firms forecast pre-tax profit would grow 22.9 percent year-on-year in the second half to March 2003, compared with a 5.1 percent forecast rise in the first half to September.

These companies also forecast sales to increase 1.5 percent year-on-year in the second half to March compared with a projected 2.5-percent fall in the first half.

In light of the optimistic outlook, economists said the minor negative impact of reduced capital expenditure would be temporary.

"Although GDP data is now most likely to be cut slightly, this will not change our assessment of the underlying trend of capital spending, which will begin to recover toward the end of this year," Minami said. *AFP*

US judge blocks sale of Hershey

WASHINGTON—A judge Wednesday ordered the trust controlling the US chocolate giant Hershey to back off plans to sell the company until the repercussions of a possible sale are studied, court sources said.

Pennsylvania Attorney General Mike Fisher had sued last month in Dauphin County Orphans Court to block the sale of the company, saying it would hurt the company's hometown of Hershey, Pennsylvania.

Judge Warren Morgan's injunction will allow time for a hearing on the impact of the sale, Fisher's office said in a statement.

Announcement of the injunction sent Hershey stock plunging $2.80 a share (3.7 percent) to $72.80.

The Milton Hershey School Trust, which owns 31 percent of the company and 77 percent of its voting shares, put its controlling interest up for sale in July.

Reported bidders include European food giants Nestlé and Cadbury Schweppes.

Alumni of the school for disadvantaged children—the sole beneficiary of the trust—also opposed the sale, fearing it would harm both the school and the surrounding community.

Hershey dominates the US chocolate market, with about 43 percent share, followed by US-based Mars, with a 27-percent share and Swiss-based Nestlé with 12 percent.

The company has about 14,000 employees and worldwide sales last year of $4.5 billion. *AFP*

US consumers come through for auto industry

DETROIT, Michigan—US consumers bought 1.7 million new vehicles last month, shrugging off concerns about the wobbly US economy and setting an all-time August industry sales record, figures released Wednesday showed.

Encouraged by some of the cheapest prices in decades, aggressive incentives, and cash liquidity from re-mortgaging, consumers snapped up cars and trucks at a near record pace.

Overall industry sales jumped 13.2 percent from August 2001, for the third best sales month on record since January 1999, according to Autodata Corp., a New Jersey auto analysis company.

General Motors Corp., the Ford Motor Co., the Chrysler Group, and Toyota, Honda, and Nissan all posted strong double digit increases.

GM was up 18 percent; Ford 12 percent; Chrysler 24 percent; Toyota 13 percent; Honda 13 percent; and Nissan 20 percent year-on-year.

The reasons for the strong performance aren't hard to find, according to Chrysler Group sales chief Gary Dilts.

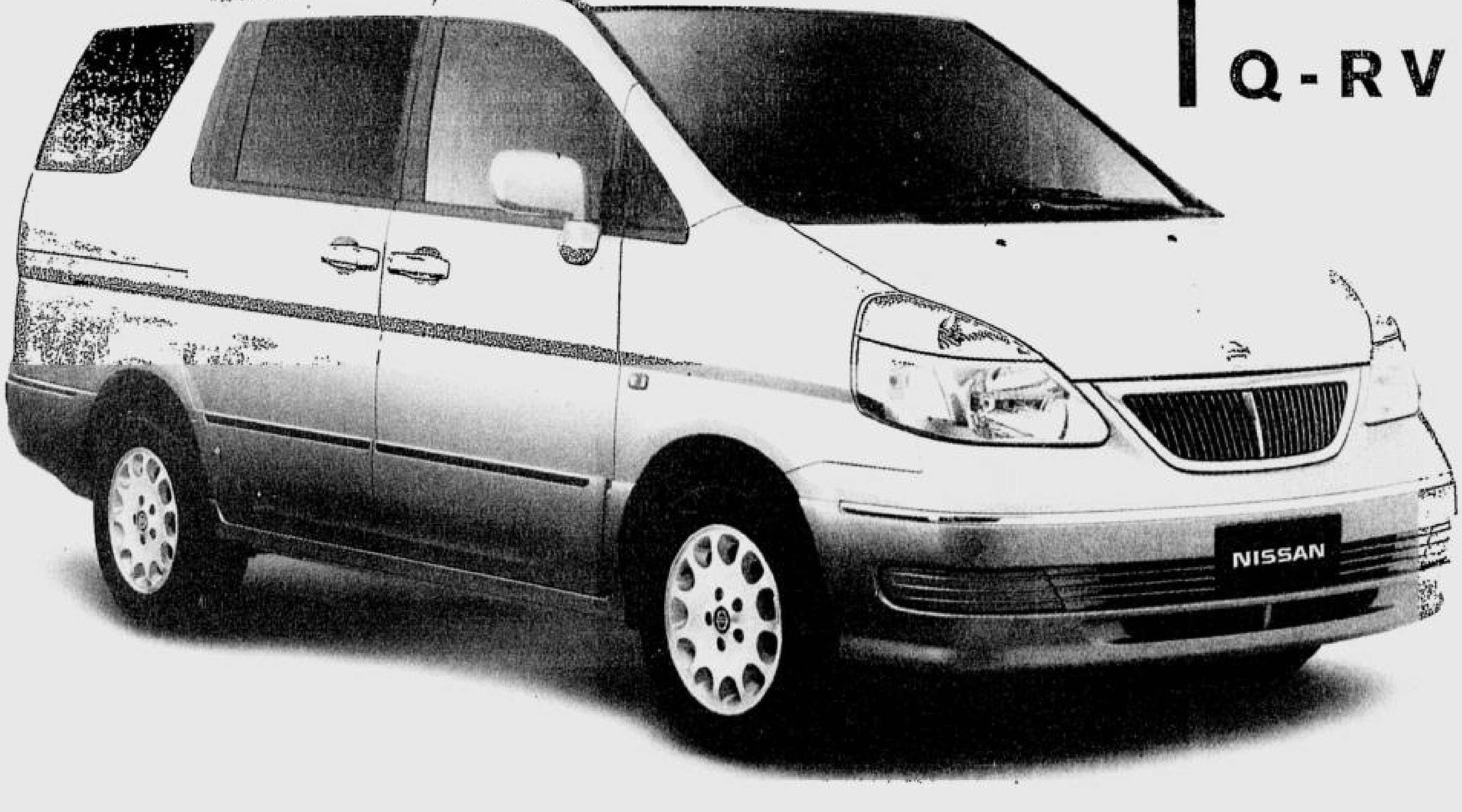
"Buying a car isn't a very big risk. It's the best time to buy one in a couple of decades," Dilts told Wall Street analysts. "It's a good place to put your money. Consumers are discovering across-the-board variety and quality that has never been better," concurred Jim Press, chief operating officer of Toyota's US sales arm in a statement.

What's more "they've discovered that a new-car purchase is more affordable now, than it's been in the last 24 years."

Overall, industry sales were tracking at an 18.5 million-unit annualized selling rate in August, according to Autodata figures, encouraging automakers to expect another bumper year. *AFP*

Real Power. Real Freedom. Real Quiet.

The Nissan Serena Q-RV



Finally, a recreational vehicle that considers the need of every passenger. From a sporty, European-style look to its flexible seating arrangements to its Mobile VCD Entertainment System, the new Nissan Serena Q-RV might just deliver the impossible: make everyone happy—all at once.

THREE YEARS 100,000 KILOMETERS WARRANTY
*Whichever comes first

- Nissan Motor Philippines Inc. reserves the right to alter specifications on actual model without prior notice.
- Model featured is Nissan Serena Q-RV R Limited 2.0-L Automatic Transmission
- Nissan Q-RV U Manual Transmission also available

METRO MANILA
NISSAN ALABANG Pamplona, Las Piñas
Tel 873 2845 873 2771 873 2770
NISSAN CENTRAL MANILA Tondo, Manila
Tel 251 9060 to 63 251 9054 & 56, 252 3566
NISSAN COMMONWEALTH Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City
Tel 932 0478 932 4001
NISSAN GALLERY ORTIGAS Libis, Quezon City
Tel 438 4539 to 40 633 2545 to 47 635 5888
NISSAN GALLERY QUEZON AVENUE Quezon City
Tel 731 5308 711 6486
NISSAN NORTH EDSA Balintawak, Quezon City
Tel 330 5334 to 50 361 9995
NISSAN UN AVENUE Paco, Manila
Tel 400 1020 400 2177, 525 9061 to 64
CORE AUTOMOTIVE RESOURCES (CAR) INC. Pasong Tamo, Makati City
Tel 818 9464 810 0151 to 55 loc 315
MANTRADE DEVELOPMENT CORP. Pasong Tamo Extension, Makati City
Tel 843 3316 to 23, 812 7701, 812 7743

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NISSAN NAGA Naga City
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NISSAN PAMPANGA San Fernando, Pampanga
Tel (045) 961 5461 to 62 961 5481 860 2164 to 65
NISSAN SOUTHWOODS Carmona, Cavite
Telefax (02) 699 2400 to 01 (046) 430 1683 to 84
ROYCE MOTOR CENTER Cabanatuan City
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ROYCE MOTOR CENTER Santiago City
Tel (078) 682 8701 682 6706 & 07
ROYCE MOTOR CENTER Baliuag, Bulacan
Tel (044) 673 0225
ROYCE MOTOR CENTER San Fernando, Pampanga
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WORLD CARS Baliuag, Bulacan
Tel (044) 766 0919, 766 0492, 766 2486
WORLD CARS Cabanatuan
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Tel (075) 522 0656, 522 0525

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NISSAN CEBU DIST. Mandaue, Cebu
Tel (032) 346 8422 to 25, 346 7439
NISSAN ILOILO Iloilo City
Tel (033) 320 4051 to 53, 329 7192 to 93

MINDANAO
NISSAN CAGAYAN DE ORO Carmen, Cagayan de Oro City
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BUTUAN BRANCH Butuan City
Tel (085) 815 3164 342 7210
DAVAO UNICAR CORP. Davao City
Tel (082) 221 1914 & 16 227 6712
DAVAO UNICAR CORP. General Santos City
Tel (083) 552 3228

NISSAN
Nissan Motor Philippines, Inc.

BUSINESS*Friday*

Business Features Editor **Margie Quimpo-Espino**

Who says the 'masa' has no taste?

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

THE TASTE of the *masa* has become so sophisticated that the ads that appeal to him now appeal to the rich, too.

This was one of the main findings of a study made by one of the country's largest advertising agencies that searched the answer to the question, "How sophisticated is the Filipino viewing public?"

In the advertising industry, the one word to describe the Filipino consumer is *masa*. He is the main market of most TV and radio ads.

Mixed respondents

Randy Aquino, business unit director of Jimenez D'Arcy, a local ad agency with a foreign partner, said the agency got 180 respondents of various ages, gender and social status to watch 18 foreign commercials shown during one episode of a sitcom.

Aquino, who spoke during the recently concluded Advertising Summit of the 4As or the Association of Accredited Advertising Agencies of the Philippines, said the study wanted to determine "what kind of TV advertising would Filipino viewers understand."

He said the chosen commercials were mixed—some were straightforward while others were creative and witty.

It turned out that the respondents found the same ads appealing despite the differences in gender, social status and age.

Aquino admitted that the result was unexpected but upon further study, the group realized that the subjects responded to the simplicity of execution and message of the commercial.

"We believe the Filipinos viewers are more sophisticated than we think," said Aquino.

"They got the message of the top ads without aid," he added.

Wrangler

The most appealing ad to the respondents was that of Wrangler jeans.

The ad showed an Asian woman washing her husband's jeans in a basin using a brush. As she scrubbed the pockets she came across a note, read it and threw it away.

When she got to the other pocket she saw something red. She pulled it out and it was a brassiere. She stared at it for a few seconds, threw it and resumed washing.

The next scene showed her cleaning the jean's crotch area and suddenly she was pounding on it, stepping on it and then slamming the jeans against the wall.

As she was doing that, the brand Wrangler flashes.

The ad was found most appealing by the respondents from the classes A, B, C and D crowds.

"What do the choices mean? To a certain degree the approach was that there was sophistication in the ads. The approach of some ads left room for them to let their imagination work," Aquino explained.

The message of the Wrangler was durability which the respondents got.

Issues

On the other hand, the least liked ads were "the types we normally see in local TV," Aquino admitted.

The failure of some members of the advertising agency to realize and recognize the increased sophistication and hunger for quality is one of the issues hounding the industry today.

The problem is that new shows are not getting advertising support while those which are bordering on the inane get ad support.

It is the same with the print industry. Magazines that carry values and promote education lag behind those that sell fluff.

"A lot of new things are affecting the advertising business," said Louie Morales, honorary chair of the summit, and one of the founders of 4As.

"The people coming in are different, there is a whole generation of difference," he added. "There is now dichotomy more than homogeneity."

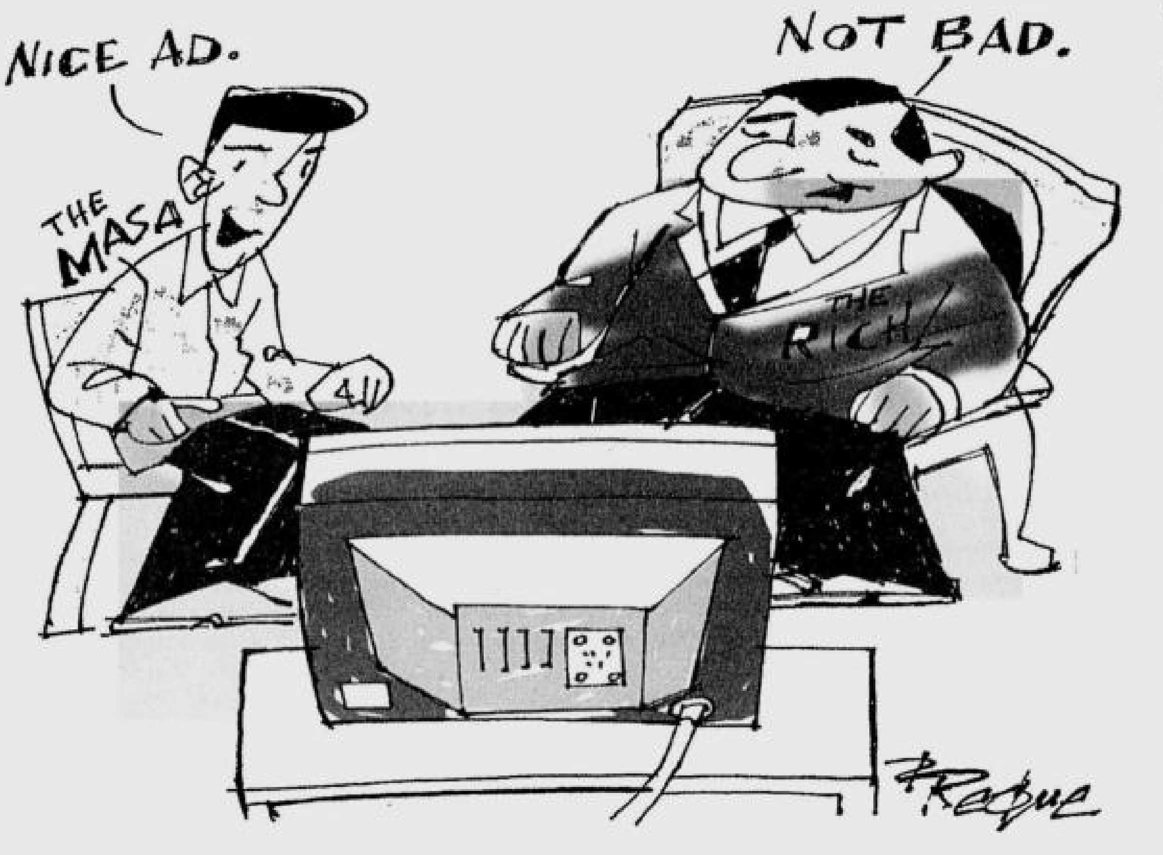
Changing landscape

Together with increased sophistication, there is also a growing change in the needs of the clients (meaning the firms advertising the products).

The media landscape has also changed—the dawning of alternative media like the Internet, the cell phone and direct selling.

Developments in communication technology have also provided numerous alternative venues for selling.

"One-half of what we do is affected by communication," Morales said.



Philippines' 25 best ads over the past 50 years

DUBBED "Mga patalastas na walang kupas," the Association of Accredited Advertising Agencies of the Philippines chose 25 best ads out of 100 nominees during the Pilak Awards last Saturday evening.

In her note in the souvenir program of the 4As summit, Crace D. Chong, chair of the Pilak Awards committee, wrote:

"6 months in development.
36 hours to shoot.
3 days in post-production.
30 seconds on air."

That's how a television commercial has been described.

Every year, the advertising industry produces hundreds of commercials. The fact is: many of them are forgotten as soon as they're off the air.

But, once in a while, the industry strikes gold. Seen even years ago, a commercial lingers in the memory.

Hundreds upon hundreds of commercials—spanning five decades—went through the grueling scrutiny of three generations of creative minds and advertising practitioners, sieved through their stringent standards and critical sensibilities.

Finally, 25 of these commercials merited the distinction of being called "Pilak," "Pilipino Advertising Klasiks!"

The 25 best ads are:

1. San Miguel Beer's "Isang Platitong Mani"
Agency: Philippine Advertising Counsellors
Creative director: Nita Claravall
Copywriter: Romy Sinson /Julius Deslate
Art director: Edwin Wilwayco
Producer: Jun Castro
Account manager: Adie Pena
Director: Jun Urbano
Music: Mike Pedero
Production House: Filmex
1983

2. Superwheel
Agency: J. Walter Thompson
Copywriter: Yoly Ong/Edd Fuentes
Art director: Gil Corcuera/Poli Maquiraya
Director: Manuel Daves
Cinematographer: Tito Arce
Production House: Vergara Films
1981

3. Sarsi's "Angat sa Iba"
Agency: Basic/FCB
Creative director: Nonoy Gallardo
Copywriter: Ted Catuira
Art director: Egay Oliva
Producers: Mario Sarmiento/Roby Ablen
Director: Jeric Soriano
Cinematographer: Rody Lacap
Music: Ryan Cayabyab
Production House: Production Village
1989

4. Royal Tru-Orange
Agency: McCann Erickson
Creative director: Letty Javier
Copywriters: Kathleen Mojica, Letty Javier, Emily Abrera
Art director: Kragui Garcia
Producer: Jing Javier
Talent caster: Amy Salona
Director: Lino Brocka
Cinematographer: Carding Baltazar/Rody Lacap
Music: Louie Ocampo
Production House: Filmex
1988

5. Rubie Blades' "Ahit Pogi-Harana"
Agency: McCann Erickson
Copywriter: Bill Ibanez
Producer: Baby Enriquez
1984

I CAN FEEL IT

6. Palmolive Soap's "I can feel it!"
Agency: Basic/FCB
Copywriter: Tere Filipinia
Art director: Lydia Cruz
Producer : Dan Katigbak
Talent caster :Mario Sarmiento
Director: Jeric Soriano
Cinematographer: Rody Lacap
Production House: Production Village
1987

7. McDonalds' "Karen/Lolo"
Agency: Leo Burnett
Creative director: Richard Irvine/Edsel Tolentino
Copywriter: Sheila de la Cuesta
Art directors: Mike de la Cuesta/Joel Eudela/Elvin Julian
Producer: Irene Chingcuangco
Talent casters: Abbey Young/Jonathan Hernandez
Director: Thierry Notz
Cinematographer: Larry Manda
Production House: Production Village
2001

8. Del Monte Spaghetti Sauce "Novices"
Agency: McCann Erickson
Creative director/copywriter: Emily Abrera
Art director: Ding Villamor
Producer: Baby Enriquez
Director: Butch Perez
Cinematographer: Rody Lacap
Production House: Electromedia
1990

NOVICES

SUPERWHEEL

PILAK

Pilipino Advertising Klasiks

9. Ayala Land's "Grass to Glass"
Agency: Ace/Saatchi & Saatchi
Creative director: Jimmy Santiago
Copywriter: Isabel Gamboa/Melvin Mangada
Art director: Melvin Mangada/Isabel Gamboa
Illustrator: Melvin Mangada
Print producer: Francis Maniego
1989

10. Gold Eagle's "Billiards"
Agency: Philippine Advertising Counsellors
Creative director: Nita Claravall
Copywriter: Romy Sinson/Julius Deslate
Art director: Edwin Wilwayco
Producer: Agoo Ofrecio
Music: Charo Unite
Director: Jun Urbano
Production House: Filmex
1988

11. Supershell "Zoom Zoom"
Agency: J. Walter Thompson
Copywriter: Johnny Santos
Art director: Senyong Atienza
Producer: Art de Guzman
Director: Tony Smith
Music: Polding Silos/Tiongco Brothers
Choreographer: Manny Zamora
1969
First CLIO winner from Asia

12. Jollibee's "Ligaw"
Agency: Basic/FCB
Copywriter: Boy Leuterio
Producer: Aton Roxas
Director: Ishmael Bernal
Music: Charo Unite
Production House: Production Village
1987-88

13. San Miguel Beer's "Bruno"
Agency: Philippine Advertising Counsellors
Creative director: Tony Gloria
Copywriter: Felix Fojas
Art director: Homer Gutierrez
Account manager: Joe Pascual
Producer: Art Dumaup
Director: Jun Urbano
Music: Danny Subido
Production House: Filmex
1977

14. Bench's "Rowing"
Agency: Promo Tourist Creative Consultancy
Creative directors: Ricky Toledo/Luis Manapat (deceased)
Music: Charo Unite
Director/cinematographer: Trevor Hone
Production House: Production Village

15. Johnson's Floor Wax's "Parachute"
Agency: J. Walter Thompson
Creative director: Irwin Castillo
Copywriter: Mayo Hernandez
Art director: Poli Maquiraya
Director: Jun Urbano
Production House: Filmex
1977

16. Sprite's "Japorms"
Agency: McCann Erickson
Creative director: Teeny Gozum
Copywriter: Divine Gil

ISANG Platitong Mani (below), Narda (top)

Art director: Carlo Directo
Producer: Telly Arce
Director: Jun Reyes
Cinematographer: Boy Yniguez
Production House: Unitel
1999

17. Purefoods' "Goodbye, Carlo"
Agency: Lintas
Creative director/Copywriter: Ompong Remigio
Producer: Cecille Labonete
Director: Mac Alejandre
Music: Nonong Buencamino
Production House:
1994

18. DBP's "Narda"
Agency: Basic/FCB
Creative director: Minyong Ordonez
Copywriter: Danny Almiranez
Art director: Rino Hernandez
Producer: Ding Fernandez
Director: Danny Almiranez
Cinematographer: Tito Arce
Production House: Creative Directors
1989

19. Philippine Airlines' "Shining Through"
Agency: Avia Communications
Creative director: Bobby Caballero
Copywriter/Lyricist: Russel Jones
Art director: Don Couldrey
Account supervisor: Tom Banguis Jr.
Producers: Russel Jones/Don Couldrey
Production House: Jumbuck Productions, Australia
Music production: EMI, Australia
1987
Winner of a CLIO Awards Certificate for International TV/Cinema, Travel

20. Del Monte Spaghetti Sauce's "Godfather"
Agency: McCann Erickson
Creative director: Emily Abrera
Copywriter: Emily Abrera/Dudu Ulep
Art director: Raul Jorolan
Producer: Baby Enriquez
Director: Neil MacDonald
Cinematographer: Maning Roxas
Production House: Electromedia
1986

21. Mr. Clean's "Labadami, Labango"
Agency: Ace Compton
Creative director: Jimmy Santiago
Copywriters: Cid Reyes, Jimmy Santiago, Alex Castro
Producer: Amar Gambol
Director: Ed Claudio
Cinematographer: Carding Baltazar
Production House: Filmex
1984

22. Knorr Chinese Soup's "Pu-Yi"
Agency: Pacifica Publicity Bureau
Creative director/copywriter: Joy Cortez
Art director: Danny Arada
Account manager: Chito Zaldarriaga/TJ Moncupa
Producer: Angelo Madrid
Director: Boldy Tapales
Cinematographer: Boy Yniguez
Food stylist: Lydia Ney
Music: Jose Mari Chan
1988

23. Jollibee's "Lola"
Agency: Basic Advertising
Copywriter/CD: Boy Leuterio
Art director: Mario Serrano
Producer: Aton Roxas
Caster: Enric Munchua
Director : Vitt Romero
Music: Charo Unite
Production House: Salon Films
1987-88

24. Astra Threads' "Superman"
Agency: Ace Compton
Creative director: Mon Jimenez
Copywriters: Margarita Arroyo/Alex Castro
Art director: Salvador Luna
Photographer: Eduviges Huang
1984

25. Camay's "Ang Barko . . . President Roosevelt"
Agency: Ace Compton
Creative director: Connie Reid
Copywriter: Keith Gamboa
Director: Tony Smith
Production House: A.D. Smith Productions
1967

6 RP ads among Asia's best

By Roger Pe
Contributor

FROM beers to detergents, from coffees to burgers, from shampoos to appliances, from soaps to garments, from automotives to pharmaceuticals, many brands in the market today earn millions of pesos every year.

You find these brands in your homes, in your hearts and minds, and, in some cases, in the list of best ads around the globe.

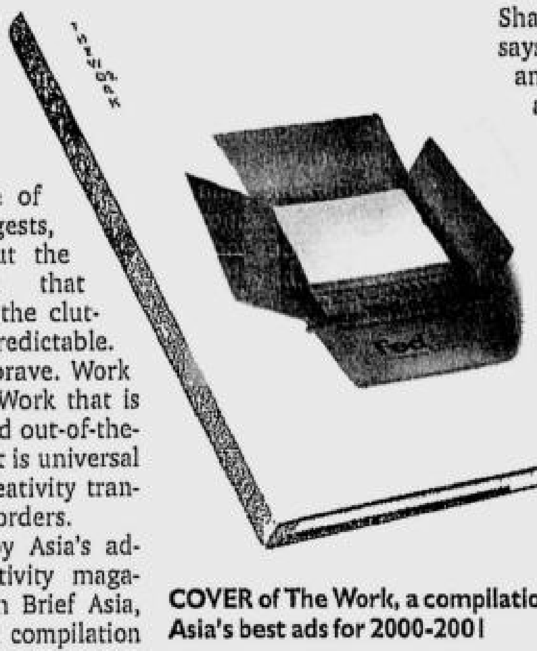
The Work

As the title of the book suggests, it is all about the work. Work that stands above the clutter and the predictable. Work that is brave. Work that is fresh. Work that is compelling and out-of-the-box. Work that is universal and whose creativity transcends local borders.

Published by Asia's advertising creativity magazine Campaign Brief Asia, The Work is a compilation of the best ads from Asia, including the Oceania countries—Australia and New Zealand. What sets it apart from other creative competitions is that it uses a unique judging criteria: no entry fee. The only requirement an agency is asked to do is to submit campaigns that have already won awards in national, regional or international awards show.

More than 235 single ads and campaigns appear on the glossy, chic coffee-table book which provides hardcore advertising creative people a great record of regional creative standards for the year 2001 and 2002.

Each ad is reproduced in full glory with full credits.



COVER of The Work, a compilation of Asia's best ads for 2000-2001

creators. Among the best of Asia, six are from the Philippines. BBDO/Guerrero-Ortega made five of the six: "Dining Out" television ad for Visa, "Fence," "Antenna" and "Construction" for Adidas' Street Ball Challenge, "Ribbon" another print ad for Adidas, and Fed Ex campaign for "Guggenheim," "Coliseum" and "Arch."

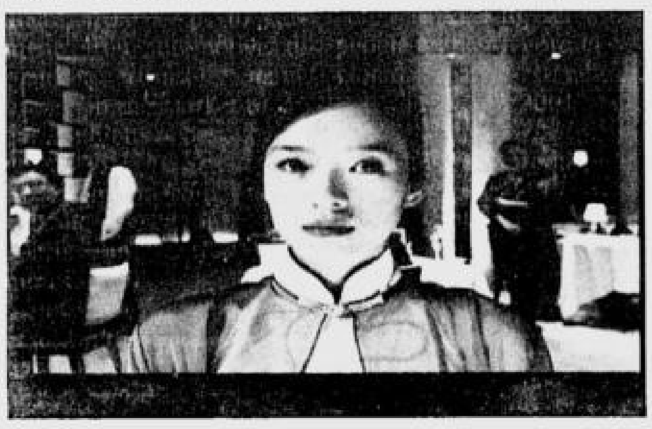
Hemisphere Leo Burnett's (Manila) "Lolo" ("Karen"), the multi-awarded local television ad, is the only other local ad in the book.

Saatchi & Saatchi-Singapore has the most ads in the book with 14.

Asia is upfront with 124 and Australia and New Zealand combine for a total of 109.

Why The Work? Kim Shaw, editor of the book says: "there was no need for another awards show and another dinner. There was a need for a well-crafted, beautifully-presented book that does justice to great work around our region. And it is only great work that appears. There was no bickering, no self-interest to protect, no conniving, mafia-like judges . . . just an impartial selection by Campaign Brief, which has an impressive record over 15 years of picking award-winners—that hopefully, will create a lasting record and give due respect to what matters—creative excellence."

The Work focuses on the pointy end of the business—tv, print, radio and outdoor, no more, no less. No design categories like packaging, editorial design or interactive stuff like banners ads and net sites. And because it does not have a large chunk of the book spent on spiels by the judges, there is more great work displayed than you may find in most award annuals.



ACTRESS Zhang Zhi-yi in the Visa "Dining Out" commercial

(For order inquiries, email asia@campaignbrief.com)

Building stronger brands through advertising, packaging and quality

MARKETING STRATEGY

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

AFTER building two major brands and selling these to multinationals, RFM Corp. is ready to plow back some of its revenues to build its other brands.

"We are refocusing our strategy to grow the other brands we have like Swift, which has been under us for more than 30 years, the Selecta Moo milk, Sunkist juices and our Fiesta pasta," says RFM Corp. CEO Jose A. Concepcion III.

When Magnolia ice cream was lording it over the market with a share of over 90 percent, nobody thought that an old brand like Selecta would be able to give it stiff competition.

But with a big budget advertising campaign behind it combined with the improvement of the ice cream line, food and beverage conglomerate RFM Corp. was able to do the seemingly impossible and made Selecta the preferred brand.

The same story goes for low-cost softdrink brands Pop-Cola and Cosmos.

RFM, was able to ease the stranglehold of Coke and Pepsi on the softdrinks market through multimedia advertising.

The brand value of Selecta, Cosmos and Pop-Cola came to a point that these became acquisition targets by rival companies, and so Selecta ice cream is now under a joint venture with Unilever; while Cosmos and Pop-Cola are now under San Miguel Corp.

RFM, however, still has a number of strong brands under its belt and it hopes to duplicate the success story of Selecta ice cream and Cosmos by using the same formula of big budget advertising, innovative packaging and enhanced product quality.

Concepcion admits in an interview that the decision to put full company efforts behind Selecta and Cosmos put its other brands by the wayside, but not anymore.

For the Swift mighty meaty processed meats and carne norte, Concepcion says RFM has unveiled a new logo to coincide with the improved quality and taste of the Swift line.

"We have closed down our old plant and we are now outsourcing the production, which I believe has improved the quality of our products and at the same time brought our costs down. Gone are the days of having plants. Multinationals are even talking about having one plant in one country to service the others," Concepcion says.

With toll manufacturing, Concepcion says RFM can take advantage of the entrepreneurial spirit of the third-party manufacturers and concentrate its resources on major areas such as brand building and distribution.

"Over the next few months we would be coming out with new products which are of better quality and yet would remain affordable to our market," he says.

For the Selecta moo drinks, RFM has come up with the first line of flavored milk drinks in 125 ml. Tetra bricks instead of the usual 250 ml. Its objective is to make milk more affordable and accessible to the market.

Selecta moo milk drinks come in ube, strawberry, melon, vanilla and chocolate flavors.

"You can only go so far with branding especially these days when the market is very value conscious. What we want is to match market leaders so we brought our price down and the sizes smaller to make them more affordable," he says.

"Our challenge is to match the prices of softdrinks to make it available to the C, D and E markets which are still growing markets. We want to reinvent the whole market by coming out with healthier drinks to compete against softdrinks," he adds.

Concepcion says the timing for the advertising campaigns for the different product lines could not be better because advertising costs have come down considerably since last year, as competition between the top networks and newspapers have brought prices down.

"This just means that we can get more from our advertising budget, we just plow back the savings into more exposures," he adds.

Advertising campaigns were mapped out for key brands Sunkist, Swift, Selecta Moo, Fiesta pasta and the flour brand White King. Plans are also underway to launch RFM's noodle line under the joint venture with the President group.

"What we want is to have brand specialization so that when people think of Selecta they think ice cream, juice for Sunkist, milk for the moo and meat products for Swift," Concepcion says.

Paving the way for SPAVs

TAX-FILES

By Ma. Lisa M. Lucas
SGV & Co.

FEW would disagree that the Philippine economy faces a long, rough road ahead to recovery. Not the least of the problems causing regulators sleepless nights is the burgeoning level of non-performing loans (NPLs) in the books of the country's banks and other financial institutions.

One solution is to sell these NPLs, along with the Ropoas (real and other property owned and acquired) to a third party.

Since this problem requires a viable long-term solution, the third party has to be enticed to make the purchase.

Bills pending in Congress for the creation and operation of Special Purpose Asset Vehicles (SPAVs) are designed to do just that.

SPAV

As envisioned, an SPAV would be entitled to incentives on its purchase and subsequent use or disposal of these non-performing assets or NPAs.

At the close of the First Regular Session of the Twelfth Congress, House Bill No. 4403 (HB 4403), authorizing the creation of SPAVs, already passed the third reading. Meanwhile, its counterpart bill in the Upper House, Senate Bill No. 2116 (SB 2116), was again forward to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means.

The need for a SPAV Law

SB 2116 defines "NPLs" as loans and receivables whose principal and/or interest have remained unpaid for at least 180 days and "Ropoas" as real and other properties owned or acquired by the banks and other financial institutions, in settlement of loans and receivables.

As of Sept. 30, 2001, Philippine banks have at least P306 billion worth NPLs and P180 billion in Ropoas. That is a total of P486 billion in NPAs held by banks comprising about 30 percent of their total loan portfolio.

The House of Representatives considered these figures as near crisis proportion, prompting it to prioritize the passage of HB 4403.

SPAVs Defined

A SPAV is an asset management company (AMC) that shall be authorized to acquire, manage and dispose of NPAs of financial institutions ("FIs").

HB 4403 defines FIs as credit granting institutions, which include the following:

- A bank as defined under the General Banking Law (R.A. No. 8791);
- A financing company as defined under the Financing Act of 1998 (R.A. No. 8556);
- An investment house as defined in Investment Houses Law (P.D. No. 129); and
- Other institutions performing quasi-banking functions.

SB 2116 adds to the list of financial institutions "government financial institutions (GFIs) and government-owned-and-controlled corporations (GOCCs)."

Examples of these GFIs and GOCCs are the National Home Mortgage Finance Corp., the Home Development Mutual Fund, the Social Security System and the Home Guaranty Corp.

The transfer of NPAs from FIs to SPAVs is intended to achieve the following objectives: (1) the FIs will have enough funds for further financing activities; and (2) SPAVs, with their skill and expertise, will realize maximum returns from the NPAs.

Ownership of SPAVs

Because of the great investment risk involved, it is therefore understandable why in certain countries, such as South Korea, Thailand, Indonesia, and Malaysia, the government wholly or partly owns SPAVs and other types of AMCs.

In the Philippines, however, the SPAV shall be a purely private enterprise.

It reflects the effort of a government, already mired in huge budget deficits, to tap into the resources of the private sector, whether local or foreign.

According to HB 4403 and SB 2116, a SPAV shall be organized as a stock corporation in accordance with the Corporation Code of the Philippines.

If the SPAV will acquire land, Philippine nationals should own 60 percent of its capital stock pursuant to the Foreign Investments Act (R.A. 7042).

The minimum authorized capital stock of a SPAV is fixed at P1 Billion, with a minimum subscribed capital stock of P250 Million, and a minimum paid-up capital of P62.5 Million.

The FI that transfers NPAs to a SPAV can hold shares of the SPAV, but not to the extent that it exercises direct management or ownership control over the transferee SPAV.

This is because the sale of the to the SPAV has to be in the nature of a "true sale," defined as a transfer without recourse for valuable consideration with the following results: (i) the transferor relinquishes effective control over the transferred NPAs; (ii) the transferred NPAs are legally isolated and put beyond the reach of the transferor and its creditors; and (iii) the transferee SPAV has the right to pledge, mortgage, or exchange the transferred NPAs

Powers of SPAVs

So that the SPAV can effectively administer its acquired NPAs, it is granted, among others, the following powers:

- To issue equity or participation certificates or other forms of Investment Unit Instruments (IUIs);
- To restructure debt, condone debt and undertake other restructuring related activities;
- To rent, lease out, hire, pledge, take a mortgage exchange, transfer, sell, secure, securitize, collect rents and profits and other similar acts concerning the NPAs;
- To enter into dacion en pago arrangements, foreclose judicially or extra-judicially and other forms of debt settlement involving the NPAs;
- To spend funds to renovate, improve, complete or alter the NPAs;
- To borrow money and issue other instruments of indebtedness for the purpose of paying its operational and administrative costs;
- To engage third parties to manage, operate, collect and dispose of the NPAs; and
- To entrust to a third party asset servicing company, or a financial institution that is a former creditor, the collection and receipt of the debt payments for debts under debt restructuring or business reorganization.

Financial Instruments

IUIs are the participation agreements, debt instruments or similar instruments issued by a SPAV to "Permitted Investors." SB 2116 has a broad definition of "Permitted Investor" so that any individual or corporation, domestic or foreign, with investible funds of P30 million or more, can acquire IUIs.

While HB 4403 exempts IUIs from the registration requirement of the Securities Regulation Code, SB 2116 contains no such counterpart provision. The definition of "Permitted Investor," by itself, calls for the exemption because an investor with a minimum of P30 million is arguably a sophisticated investor not in need of protection from fraud that is the objective of such registration.

SPAV Incentives

To encourage SPAV investments, transactions with SPAVs shall be exempt from certain taxes, such as:

- Documentary stamp tax as may be imposed under Title VII of the Tax Code of 1997
- Capital gains tax imposed on the transfer of lands and/or buildings treated as capital assets
- Creditable withholding taxes imposed on the transfer of land and/or buildings treated as ordinary assets
- Value-added tax on the transfer of NPAs as may be imposed under Title IV of the Tax Code of 1997

SPAV transactions shall be subject to the following fees, albeit at lower rates or values:

- P200,000 or 5 percent of the applicable mortgage registration and transfer fees, whichever is lower, on the transfer of real estate mortgage and chattel mortgage registrations to and from the SPAV, as imposed by existing circulars of the Land Registration Authority (LRA);
- P200,000 or 5 percent of the filing fees for any foreclosure, whichever is lower, initiated by the SPAV in relation to any permitted investment, as prescribed by the Rules of Court; and
- P200,000 or 5 percent of the land registration fees prescribed under the existing circulars of the LRA, whichever is lower.

However, the tax exemptions and fee privileges shall be applicable only to the following transactions:

- Transfers of NPAs from an FI to a SPAV and transfers by way of dacion en pago by the borrower to an FI, provided that such transfers take place within two years from the date of effectivity of the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of the SPAV Act; and
- Subsequent transfers from a SPAV to a third party of the NPAs acquired within such two-year period, provided that such transfers occur within five years from the date of acquisition by the SPAV.

HB 4403 and SB 2116 also grant certain incentives and privileges to the financial institutions to encourage dealings and transactions with SPAVs, such as:

- Any loss incurred by an FI from the transfer of NPAs shall be treated as ordinary loss that may, subject to certain conditions, be carried over for a period of five taxable years immediately following the year of such loss.
- According to HB 4403, FIs that received capital infusion and/or financial assistance from a SPAV for the rehabilitation of their business shall be exempt from corporate income taxes for five years from the date of acquisition of its NPA by the SPAV.
- HB 4403 also exempts any new loan or financing assistance extended by the SPAV to an FI whose NPA has been acquired from interest taxes, DST and all other credit-related taxes and fees.

Conclusion

Since the SPAV bills were not passed by time the First Regular Session of the Twelfth Congress adjourned, they will have to be reintroduced during the Second Regular Session which commenced on July 22, 2002.

While dubbed as a priority measure, the challenge for Congress is to pass the SPAV Law in such form that there will be willing stakeholders in a SPAV. Such investors, surely, will not only look at tax breaks and other fiscal incentives.

They also want assurance that the government is serious about the transfer of NPAs and will not entertain numbing attempts to restrain FIs from transferring NPAs and SPAVs from managing such NPAs.

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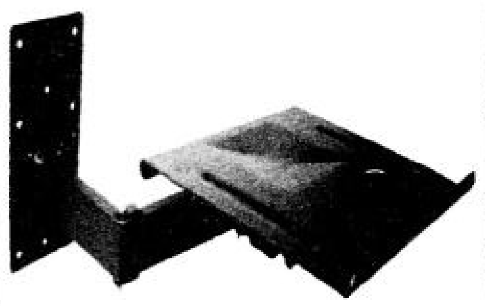
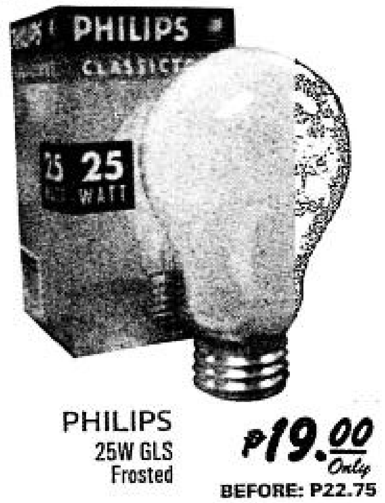


PERELVISION TV Bracket ₱950.00 Only BEFORE: P1,669.75



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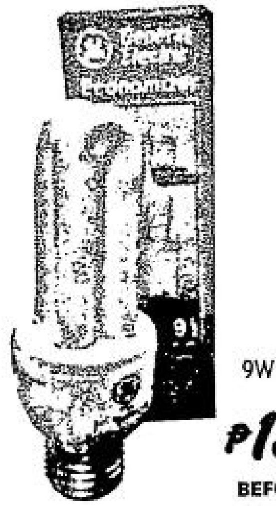

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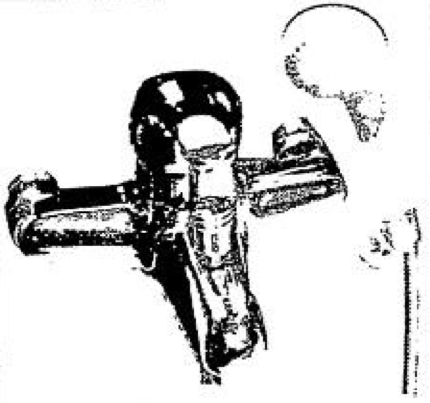
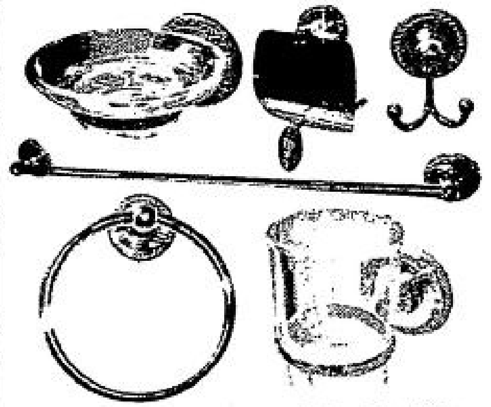


MOSSINI Single-lever bath mixer w/ telephone shower ₱1,400.00 Only BEFORE P2,150.00



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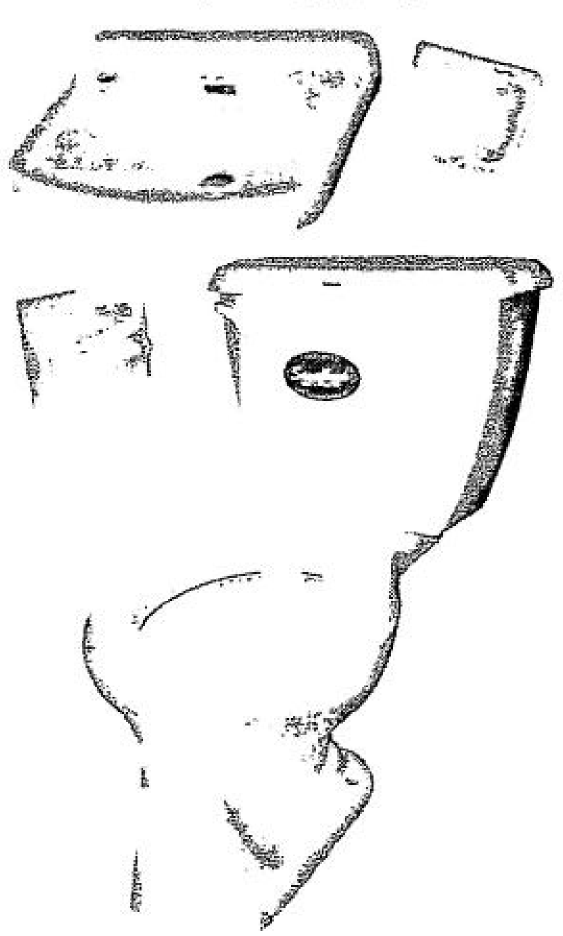
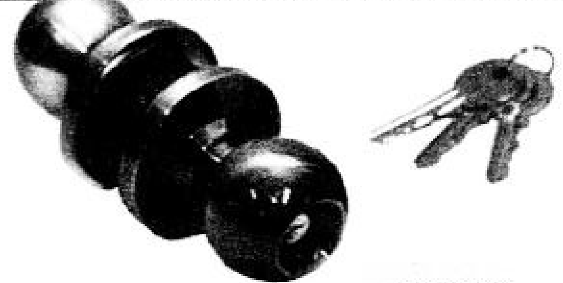


AMERILOCK



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Yale

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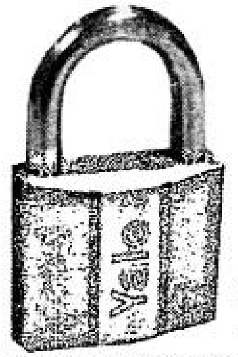
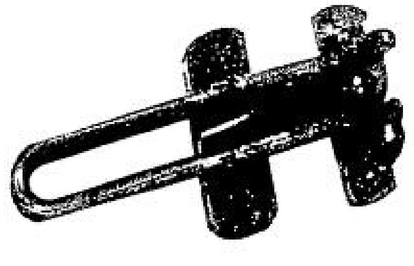
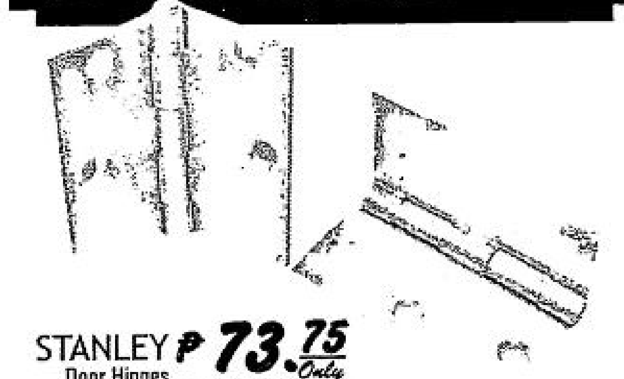


YALE Solid Brass Padlock ₱116.75 Only BEFORE: P142.75



YALE Heavy Duty Door Guard ₱144.75 Only BEFORE: P157.75

STANLEY



STANLEY Door Hinges 3" x 3" ₱73.75 Only BEFORE: P98.75

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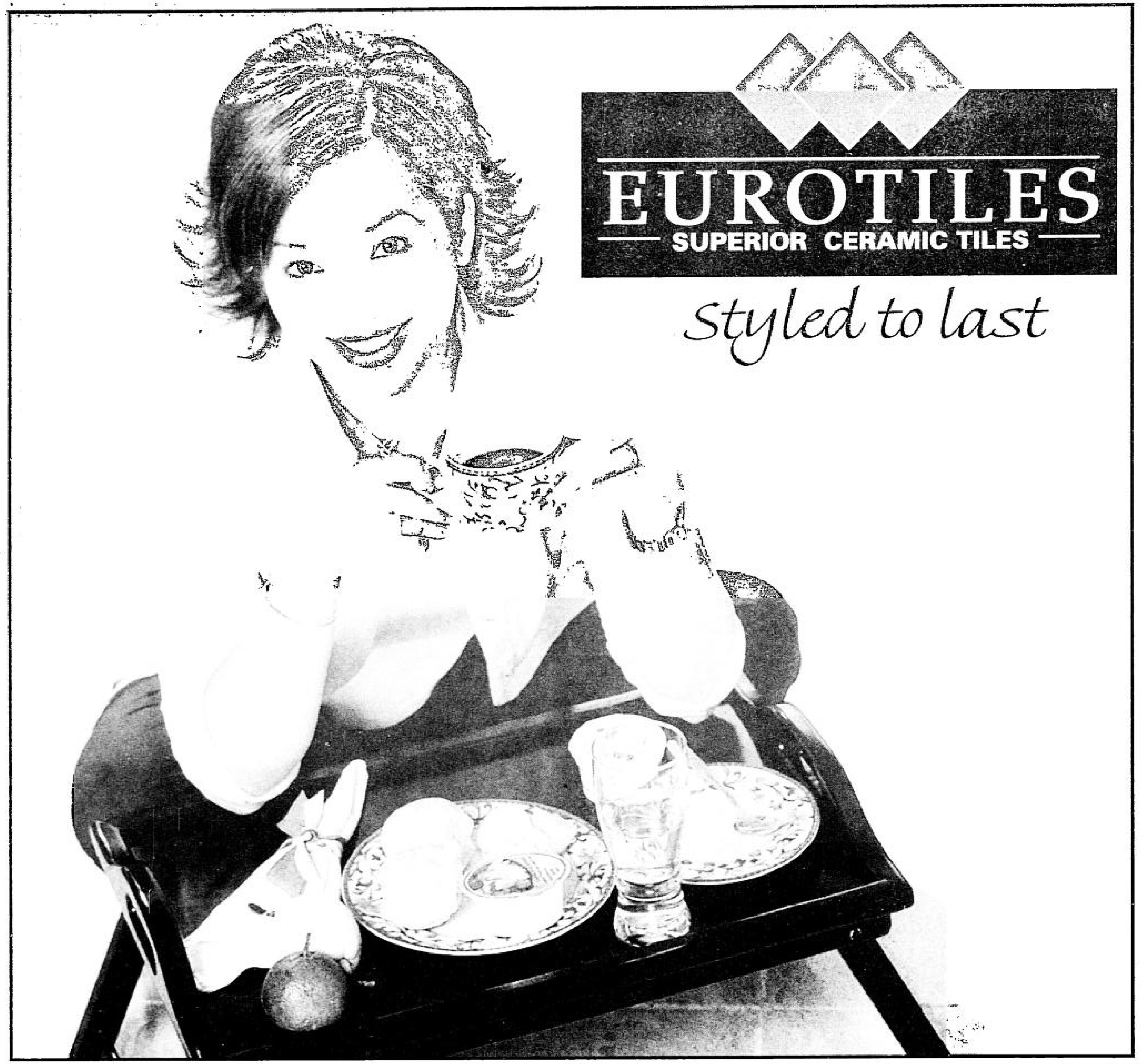

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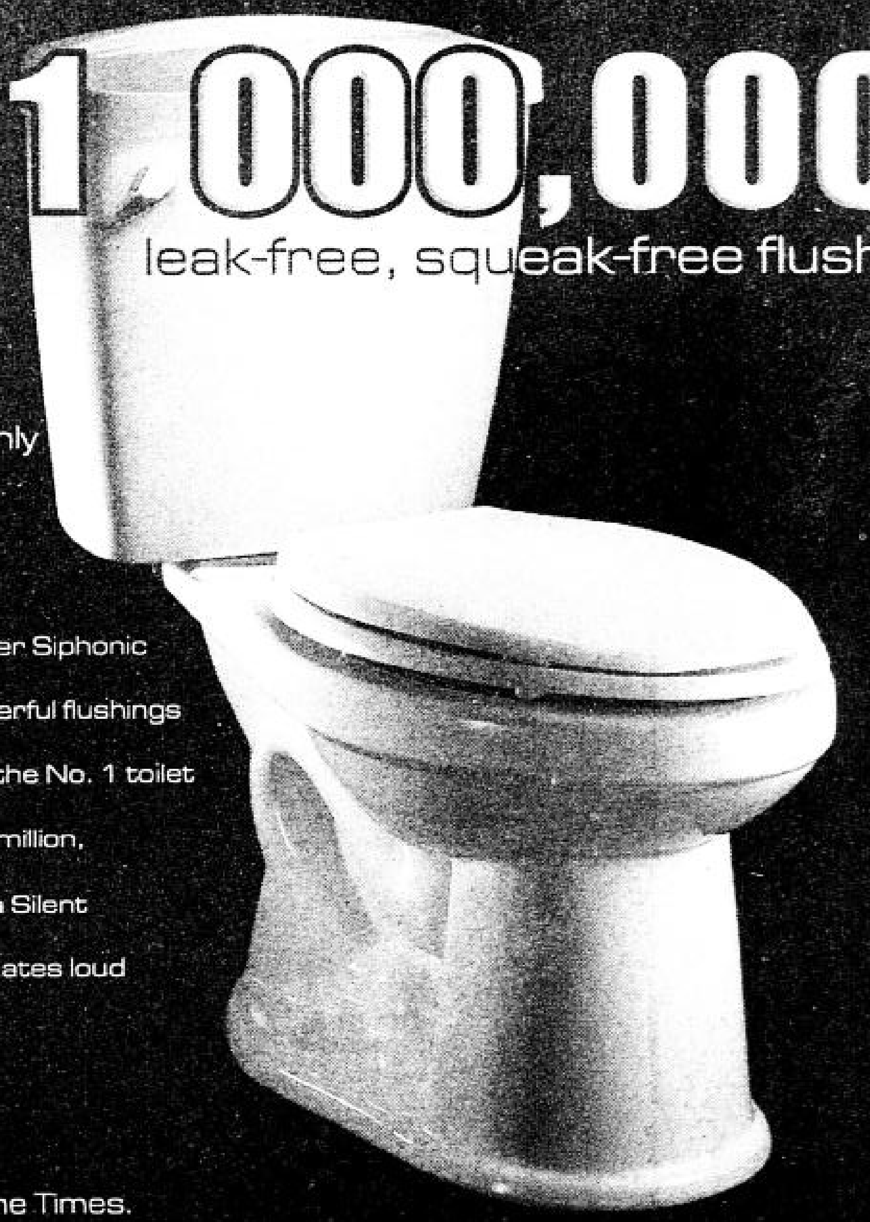

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Manila East Road,
Kaytikling,Taytay, Rizal
Tels. 284-2206 • 665-3442

LAS PIÑAS
(In front of SM Southmall) Lot 7,
Alabang-Zapote Rd.,Brgy. Almanza,
Las Piñas City Tels. 801-7152
800-7152 • 800-7132 • 800-7134

BACOOR, CAVITE
Tropical Hut Bldg.,
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   1. 2 pieces Short Sleeves Barong
   2. 2 pieces Pants (Slacks)
   3. 2 pieces Shirt Jack
   4. 4 pieces V-Neck T-Shirt
   5. 2 pieces Maong Pants

   Set C - Field - Construction Based:
   1. 2 pieces Long Sleeves/V-Neck T-Shirt
   2. 2 pieces Short Sleeves/V-Neck T-Shirts
   3. 1 piece Jacket
   4. 3 pieces Short Pants (Aqua Type)
   5. 2 pieces Industrial Pants (Gym Type)

   Set D - Field Non-Construction Based:
   1. 4 pieces Short Sleeves/V-Neck T-Shirt
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A Pre-Bid Conference will be conducted on **September 19, 2002**, 10:00 a.m. at MWSI-HROD Seminar Room.

The submission of Financial Proposal is scheduled on **October 11, 2002**, 2:00 p.m.

MWSI reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason/s, waive any and all informalities therein, and accept the bid it deems advantageous to the company.

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01	Brgy. Silang Junction West Tagaytay City	10,000 sqm. subdivision lot	P22M
02	Cherry Homes Compound E. Rodriguez Ave., Moonwalk Village, Brgy. La Huerta Parañaque City	303 sqm. house & lot	P1.914M
03	Imperial Royale Townhouse Brgy. Talon Dos (Pamplona) Las Piñas	66 sqm. house & lot	P1.518M
04	• Site 1 (315 N-W side of P. Herrera St. 25 meters N-W or 2 lots away from Pateros Nat. H.S.	277 sqm. lot	P693,000.00
05	• Site 2 (N-E corner of S. Castillo & C. Sexon Sts., 200 meters N-E from Pateros Nat. H.S. within Brgy. Tavacalera • Site 3 (#287 N-E side of S. Castillo St. 2 lots away from site 2	166 sqm. lot 201 sqm. lot	P1.063M P1.725M
06	Brgy. Bagong Lipunan, Cubao Quezon City	70 sqm. lot	P980,000.00
07	Brgy. Andagao, Kalibo, Aklan	819 sqm. lot	P1.47M
08	Km Post 439 Brgy. Balao, Abra de Ilog, Occidental Mindoro	2,520 sqm. lot & cockpit	P504,000.00
09	Torre, Mangatarem, Pangasinan with improvement, Lot is along Provincial Road of Urbiz, Mangatarem, Pangasinan	300 sqm. house & lot	P502,858.00
10	Suaco, Mangatarem, Pangasinan with improvement, Lot is near right at the slope of the mountain	2,044 sqm. house & lot	P506,100.00
11	Azurin Subd., San Jose, Antique	307 sqm. Residential lot	P460,500.00
12	Angang, Tuao, Cagayan	2,249 sqm. Residential lot	P168,000.00
13	Angang, Tuao, Cagayan	2,248.5 sqm. Residentail lot	P146,000.00
14	Maguilling, Piat, Cagayan	1,500 sqm. Agri. lot	P180,000.00
15	Basi, Solana, Cagayan	1,012 sqm. Residential lot	P86,000.00
16	Gaiarin, Urbiztondo, Pangasinan	11,351 sqm. Residential/ Agricultural	P737,660.00
17	Real Urbiztondo, Pangasinan	11,651 sqm. Residential/ Agricultural	P913,750.00
18	Alos, Alaminos, Pangasinan	3,410 sqm. Residential lot	P862,600.00
19	No. 42 Whitefield Street, White Plains Quezon City (Title for Reconstitution)	437 sqm. Residential lot	P9.161M

Code No. (Chattels)			Minimum Bid Price
20	1 unit	1995 Toyota Tamaraw FX (TSE-132)	P168,750.00
21	1 unit	1996 Toyota Tamaraw FX (SFK-709)	P160,000.00
22	1 unit	Daewoo Racer GTI Model 1995 (SFT-104)	P 98,000.00
23	1 unit	Daewoo Prince Ace Model 1997 (USD-970)	P320,000.00
24	1 unit	Mitsubishi Canter (Armor Car with Plate No. SFK 719)	P586,000.00

All bids must be submitted in a sealed envelope with the Code No., corresponding to the property/chattels written on the face of the envelope. A deposit equivalent to 10% of the total offer is required upon acceptance of the proposal.

For chattels, a bid bond equivalent to 10% of total bid price in the form of Cash, Manager's Check/Cashier's Check only should be submitted with the proposal.

The Bank reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defects or informalities contained therein or accept the offer/bid considered most advantageous.

For further information, please call 527-0057, 525-9394 loc. 103.

(Sgd.) **EDWIN A. REMODO**
Chairman - AMC

(PDI – Sept. 6 & 7. 2002)

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

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PUBLIC NOTICES

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late Aracelle B. Martin has been extrajudicially settled per Doc. No. 214, Page 43, Book III of Atty. Edward S. Macamay.
(PDI- August 30, Sept. 6 & 13 2002)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late
PIOQUINTO AMBROSIO VILLARUZ
was extrajudicially settled among his heirs per Notary Public Atty. Carlito P. Egaña of Makati City, under Doc. No. 210 Page No. 43, Book No. VII; Series of 2002 (PDI-Sept. 6, 13 & 20, 2002)

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PUBLIC NOTICES

AUCTION SALE

NATION PAWNSHOP, INC., Poblacion, Meyc. Bulacan will sell all unredeemed pledges of March, 2002 on Sept 23, 2002 10am, Lanuza & Sons-Auctioneer.

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is given of the Loss of Alien Cert of reg # E-43179 issued to **Christine Surjantini Aranya** Indonesian by the Bureau of Immigration on January 15, 1998 (PDI-Aug 23,30&Sept6,2002)

Notice is hereby given that the Alabang Country Club "A" Share w/ Stock Certificate No. A-2130 issued in the name of Bernard Rojas & which share is mortgaged w/Investors Financial Services Corp. (formerly CIPI Leasing) was lost. If no contest received, new Certificate will be issued.
PDI-Aug 23, 30, Sept. 6, 2002

URBAN BANK Certificate#7717 - 60 shrs under the name of **TOMAS GO** was declared lost. If no contest is received w/in 1 yr new certificate will be issued.
(PDI-Sept 6, 13 & 20, 2002)

PERSONAL

PRAYER FOR THE HOLY SPIRIT

Holy Spirit thou who make me see everything and show me the way to reach my ideal. You who give me the divine gift to forgive and forget the wrong that is done to me and who are in all instances of my life with me. I, in this short dialogue want to thank You for everything and confirm once more that I never want to be separated from You, no matter how great the material desires may be. I want to be with You and my loved ones in Your Perpetual Glory. Amen. Person must pray this 3 consecutive days without stating one's wish. After 3rd day your wish will be granted no matter how difficult it may be. Promise to publish this as soon as your favor has been granted. FDP

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NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION

Diliman, Quezon City

INVITATION TO BID

"AS-IS-WHERE-IS"
for the SALE of

UNUSED NPC TUGBOAT "MV MASINLOC"

DATE OF BIDDING: SEPTEMBER 24, 2002

The National Power Corporation will receive sealed bids on an "AS-IS-WHERE-IS" basis for the tugboat described below:

ITEM DESCRIPTION	LOCATION
One (1) unit Unused Tugboat, 3000 PS, Acquired in 1998, "MV Masinloc" Length (Overall, without rubber fender/sheat) : 33.30 meter (approx.) Breadth (molded) : 9.20 meter Depth (molded) : 3.90 meter Designed Load Draught (molded) : 2.90 meter Gross Tonnage (international) : 310.00 tons Loading Capacity : 80.00 tons (approximate) MAIN DIESEL ENGINES Make : Mitsubishi No. of Units : 2 units No. of Cylinder : 6 cylinders Max. Continuous Output : 1500 PS @ 1150 rpm Normal Output : 1350 PS @ 1110 rpm	Naga, Cebu

Interested eligible bidders may obtain bidding documents upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Five Thousand Pesos (PhP 5,000.00) at the Office of the Asset Disposal Project (ADP), Third Floor, Building No. 1, National Power Corporation, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines

Bids will be opened in the presence of bidders' representatives at 2:00 PM on **SEPTEMBER 24, 2002** at the NPC Solarium, NPC Head Office. Bids shall be accompanied by a Bid Bond of not less than ten percent (10%) of the total amount of bid. The Power Sector Asset and Liabilities Management (PSALM) Corporation have concurred with the bidding process and clearance for the disposal was duly approved.

NPC reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, to waive any required informality, and to accept such bids that is most advantageous to the Government.

Additional information may be obtained from Asset Disposal Project office at telephone nos. 922-3970, and 921-3541 loc. 5582

(Sgd.) **LEVI C. ARABELO**
Manager, ADP & BNPP and Chairman
Task Force for the Disposal of Tugboat MV Masinloc

(PDI – Sep 6, 7 & 8, 2002)

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National Power Corporation

GENCO 2

INVITATION TO BID

For the Sale of Sludge/Waste Oils

Located at NPC-BFORF Compound, inside the CALTEX Refinery Complex
Municipality of SAN PASCUAL, Province of BATANGAS

"CASH, AS IS-WHERE IS, TAKE ALL and CLEAN-UP"

Date of Bidding : September 17, 2002
Time : 10:00 A.M.
Place of Bidding : Conference Room, NPC-GENCO II, Plaza-Natalia Bldg., Naguilian Road, Baguio City

Item/Description	Min. Bid Price
One (1) lot Sludge/Waste Oils, including Clean-up and De-Gassing works, approximately 13,651,326 liters more or less, broken down as follows: 1) Combination of sludge/waste oil contained inside the BFORF's Three (3) fuel oil tanks, approximately 3,641,363 liters, more or less. 2) Contaminated water contained inside the BFORF's tanks, approximately 9,648,973 liters, more or less. 3) Sludge/Waste oils inside 76 drums and including all sludge oil contents and waste oils accumulated inside the oil and water separators, oil recovery tanks, booster pumps/motor areas and all other waste oils to be taken in the required clean-up, approximately 360,990 liters, more or less.	P 15,120,000.00

Issuance of Bid Forms including Bid Terms and Conditions at Php 200.00 per set will be on September 5, 2002 at NPC-GENCO II, c/o Mr. O.C. VERANO with Telephone Nos.: 445-4541 to 44 local 217/239. Deadline for the issuance of Bid Forms is 4:30 P.M. on September 16, 2002.

Interested parties are requested to attend the pre-bid conference on September 16, 2002 at 3:00 P.M. at Conference Room, NPC-GENCO II, Plaza Natalia Bldg., Baguio City. All inquiries regarding the above should be coursed in writing to Mr. O.C. VERANO with office address at NPC-GENCO II, WTTDS, Plaza Natalia Building, #51 Naguilian Road, Baguio City.

Sealed Bids in the prescribed form shall be received until 10:00 A.M. on September 17, 2002 at the Conference Room, NPC-GENCO II, Plaza Natalia Bldg., Naguilian Road, Baguio City and shall then and there be opened for the sale of the items bidden. Only duly accredited DENR Recyclers/Treaters and/or Haulers shall be allowed to participate.

Please note that the GENCO II/National Power Corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any informality found therein and to accept or reject such bids as may be advantageous to the interests of the Corporation.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. A. A. PADAEN**
Manager, HR & Admin. Svcs. Div.
& Chairman, RAMSUC

September 5 & 6, 2002 – Inquirer

LASSIFIED ADVERTISING DIVISION
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912-9008-11 Fax 912-9011
I MEGAMALL, MANDALUYONG CITY
6350219 ☎ 6872354 ☎ 6872366 Fax 6350220
F TRINITY BLDG., 636 T.M. KALAW ST., ERMITA, MANILA
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OBITUARIES

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In loving memory of our beloved mother...

EUGENIA R. MADRID

The wife of the late **Santiago S. Madrid, Sr.**

of Laoag City, Ilocos Norte

Peacefully passed away to rest in the loving embrace of our Lord
On September 3, 2002 at the age of 87.

She is survived by her children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren:

Norman & **Sandy (Lim)** -- **Michael** and **Tanya**

Ellen & **Roger (Evangelista)** -- **Vina** & **Rommel**, **Eugene** & **Gracey** and **Daphne**; and **Nika**

Maj. Gen. Santiago, Jr.(†) & **Remy (Ancheta)** -- **Charlie** & **Cherbeth** and **Charmaine**, **Ken-ken**, **Chellie**, **Jenny** & **Donniel**; **Rona** and **Judy**

Lyn & **Ed (Lorenzo)** -- **Edmund** & **Marissa** and **EC**; **Mark**, **Gelly** & **Major** and **Samantha**, **Jeremiah**, and **Amore**

Randy & **Ruth (Roman)** -- **Alvin**; **Lester** & **Fely** and **Francis**; and **Bryan**

Maricar and **Larry (Crost)**;

Feda

Her remains lie in state at the Marian Memorial Chapels, Marcos Highway, Antipolo City.
Praise and prayer service is being held every evening at 8:00 PM
Interment will follow after the 8:30 AM mass at the Marian Memorial Chapels
She will be laid to rest at the Heaven's Gate 1 Memorial Park, Antipolo City on September 8, 2002

"Come, blessed of the Father, says the Lord Jesus, and take possession of the kingdom prepared for you." Matthew 23:24

MESSAGE OF GRATITUDE

THE FAMILY AND RELATIVES
OF THE LATE

ARIEL PUYAT CARLOS

FORMER SENIOR ART DIRECTOR, McCANN ERICKSON PHILS.

As we commemorate the 40th day of his peacefully joining our Creator on 29 July 2002,

we wish to express our heartfelt gratefulness and sincerest appreciation to all those who comforted and condoled with us, offered prayers and masses, sent flowers and mass cards, visited and kept vigil, attended the funeral rites, and who in countless other ways helped us in our time of bereavement.

MESSAGE OF THANKS

The family and relatives of the late

TAN, LIM DE GUAT

who peacefully joined her Creator
on August 24, 2002

wish to express their gratitude and appreciation to all those who in one way or another condoled with them in their hour of bereavement.

> *"Whoever tries to gain his own life will lose it;*
> *but whoever loses his life for My sake will gain it"*
> (Matthew 10:39)

Mrs. Benita Atienza-Villa

Joined our Saviour on September 5, 2002

Her bereaved husband **Roberto O. Villa**; children **Vilma**, **Pamela** and **Liza Fe** request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul. Her remains lie in state at A. delas Alas Drive, Batangas City.

Funeral Mass will be held on Sunday September 8, 2002 at 1:00 PM in St. Mary Auphrasia Parish Church. Interment will follow at the Eternal Memorial Park, Batangas City.

Agueda Guantero Y Halcon Vda. de Higwit

January 6, 1913 - September 2, 2002

Joined her husband
Ex-mayor Roque Higwit (†) and
daughter Nayda H. Davis (†).

Her grieving daughter **Juliet** & **Noli** and son **Atty Edgar Higwit** and **Yvonne** and other family members requests the readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies at St. Peter Memorial Chapel, Quezon City and will be interred at Holy Cross Memorial Park on September 8, 2002 at 2:00 in the afternoon.

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

Manuel C. Diosomito

wish to convey our sincerest gratitude to our relatives, friends, and all those who expressed their condolences, sent flowers, offered prayers and Masses, and who in countless ways comforted us during our time of grief.

May God grant you blessings for your thoughtfulness and generosity.

GERTRUDIS FRANCISCO SAN JUAN, DDM

Peacefully passed away in the loving embrace of our Lord
on August 31, 2002 at Kirkland, Washington, U.S.A.

She is survived by her loving daughter **Victoria Trusedell (Girlie San Juan)**, son-in-law **Jeff Trusedell** and grandson **Christian**.

Memorial Services will be held at Overlake Christian Church in Redmond, Washington at 2:00 p.m. on September 9, 2002 and at the Living Bread Bible Fellowship in Makisig Street, Sta. Mesa, Manila at 4:00 p.m. on September 7, 2002.

For your Classified Ads requirements, call our Classifieds Advertising Hotlines:

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(Aurora)

MAKATI
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811-4361
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CAPITOL MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
1305 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City. Tel. 732-0309; 732-1095
CEBU ROLLING HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
Cebu Branch: A.S. Fortuna Street, Banilad, Mandaue City, Cebu
Tels. 346-2543, 346-2601
COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Nivel Hills, Lahug, Cebu City
Tels. 231-0721, 231-3192
COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Camus Ext. cor. J. Abad Santos, Davao City
Tels. (082) 227-1201; 227-1258
DAYAO FUNERAL HOME
#2 Bayani St., Galas, Quezon City
Tels. 740-2683; 781-3705; 781-3688; 413-9400; 715-5594
DALLUAY MEMORIAL SERVICES
#42 Upper Kalaklan, Olongapo City
Tels. (047) 222-3605; (047) 811-1086; (047) 222-4512; (047) 224-2014
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Tels. 712-5102, 741-5125, 741-5133; Fax No. 711-3064
FLORESCO FUNERAL HOME
219 Gen. Luna St., Concepcion, Malabon, Metro Manila
Tels. 2812963, 2813034; 2810522

FUNERARIA PANGILINAN
Santo Entierro cor. P. Burgos St., Lourdes Sur, Angeles City
Tels. (045) 888-2959 ; (045) 322-5247
PAKET SANTIAGO MEMORIAL HOMES
13 V. Gomez St., San Roque, Marikina City
Tels. 646-1725; 646-1730
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M. Almeda St., Pateros, Metro Manila; Tels. 642-3010; 633-3602
FUNERARIA TUASON
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Tels. 749-3679, 781-1772
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OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS: ❶ Copy of Death Certificate ❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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People, Events & Products

Aries Espinosa, Editor aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

3rd Araw Values Awards call for entries and nominations

THE ADVERTISING Board of the Philippines (AdBoard) is now accepting entries to this year's Araw Values Awards, an awards program created in recognition of advertising that best advocates the most endearing, basic and distinct Filipino ideals.

Held every two years, the Araw Values Awards is one of two most coveted industry awards given alternately each year to the finest pieces of advertising that see print or are broadcast on radio or television, the other one being the Araw Creative Awards.

Already on its third year, the Araw Values Awards are handed out to winners based on a set of criteria revolving around such Filipino "cornerstone values" as love of God and respect for religious beliefs; commitment to truth, honesty and justice; love of country and respect for national customs and traditions; reverence for family unity and the inviolability of marriage; respect and care for human life and dignity and the rights of all; respect for law and authority and the promotion of self-discipline; and concern for and preservation of the environment.

An entry has to first identify which of the seven cornerstone values it is promoting so it can compete with the other entries in that particular category.

For the first time since its inception, AdBoard will take the Araw Values Awards on a four-city road show to allow the public to view a touring mall exhibit and participate in choosing the winners. Another innovation that will be introduced for the first time is the Kababaihan Award, a special award to be given by the National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women for advertising that portrays a keen respect for the rights of the Filipino woman.

Winners of the 3rd Araw Values Awards will be declared during the awarding ceremony at the NBC Tent, The Fort, on Dec. 4. The project is supported by the Rotary Club of Makati West.

PANA COCKTAILS

The Philippine Association of National Advertisers (Pana) held a cocktail party recently for all media organizations to roll out plans for the forthcoming Pana Strategic Marketing Conference and Congress from Nov. 20 to 22. The conference is part of its 43rd anniversary celebration with the theme 'Strat Ur Stuff'. Various advertisers and media executives were present during the affair. Shown, from left, are Beth Flores of Swedish Match, PLDT AVP Raul Alvarez, Inquirer VP for advertising Pepito Olarte, Chowking marketing manager Jojo Ajero, Pfizer group sales manager Emerson Aguinaldo, Pana president Gigi Rodriguez, McDonald's PR and communications manager Zonito Torrevillas, Inquirer SVP for sales and marketing Rene Reinoso, Pana VP Susie Achacoso-Cruz, Inquirer AVP for advertising Kenny Nuyda, Pana executive director Dr. Nonie Azarcon and Inquirer account manager Apple Fontanilla.

MSSI SIGNS AGREEMENT WITH PSE

MySecureSign Inc (mSSI), the Philippines' first and only certification authority and a principal affiliate of world leading Internet trust services provider VeriSign Inc., provided the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) with managed public key infrastructure (PKI) for web applications. It will be primarily used by PSE and the publicly listed companies to send and receive, on a secure basis, messages, corporate disclosures, circulars, news items and other information that need to be disseminated by the Exchange. Shown, from left, are Ariel Roda, mSSI president and managing director of ePLDT, Luis Gopez, mSSI general manager, Ernest Leung, PSE president, and Ed Ocampo, PSE chief information officer.

ASEAN CHINESE HOOP TOURNEY CONTENDERS

The Philippine Chinese Friendship Basketball League team, headed by team manager Alfonso 'Achit' Kaw, joins the 11th Asean Chinese Veterans Basketball Tournament, which starts Sept. 4 and ends Sept. 8. The tournament organizer this year is the Asaba Basketball Team. The tournament will be held at the Sukarno Gym in Jakarta, Indonesia. The PCFBL team's head coach is Jaime Lim, with manager Terry Que and team leader Go Teng Kok. Seated, from left, are 'Achit' Kaw, Thomas Ong, Macario Chua, Lim, and Que. Standing, from left, are sponsor Morris Lee, Alberto To, Lim Eng Beng, Eddie Uy, Antonio Go, Abet Guidaben Virgilio dela Cruz, Alfredo Hubalde, William Lao and Victor Chua.

BPI PROMO GRAND DRAW WINNERS

The Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI) recently awarded the winners of the grand draw of the Express Teller's 'EPS Smart Shopper. Your Kid's a Winner' promo. During the promo period there were 200 winners of P1,000 each. For the grand draw, BPI gave away three laptops, five Palm Pilot M505s, and five Nokia phone kits. Present during the award ceremonies at the 1851 Club of the BPI head office were (from left) AVP Cecile de la Paz, head, debit cards, SVP Teresita Tan, head, card banking division, Nokia phone kit winners Dennis Alonzo (BFB Pasay Road), Andrea del Rosario (BPI Pasig E. Rodriguez), and Fenecita Silva (BPI Corinthian), laptop winner Cecilia Lazarte (BPI New Alabang), Palm Pilot M505 winners Diana Rose Tagra (BPI Pasig Ortigas), Mario Simon Cases (BPI TM Kalaw) and Andrie Basadre (BFB C Palanca), Thelma Ocampo, product manager, Express Payment System, AVP Carmencita Gozar, head product marketing, and AM Marietta Salta, marketing officer. The other winners were Imelda Capistrano (BPI Ayala West) and Ruth Tan (BPI Pacific Star), Nokia phone kits, laptop winners Betsy Chen (BPI Bel Air) and Maria Pilar Ann Lopezbanos (BPI Cubao Shopping), and Palm Pilot M505 winners Josephine Jaleco (BPI Mandaluyong Pioneer) and Susan Orin Trinidad (BPI Capitol Hills).

Product FILES

Moisturize your way to healthy skin

SKIN is at its best when it is healthy and moisturized. Vaseline lotion is the only lotion with Triple Lipid Complex that replenishes essential skin lipids--your skin's natural moisture layer that soaps wash away. Vaseline Lotion is available in four variants: for normal skin, for normal to dry skin, anti-bacterial, and mosquito repellent. Vaseline Lotion comes in bottles and sachets and is available in all major department stores, supermarkets, drugstores and convenience stores nationwide.

BITS & Clips

DLSU-CSB goes digital

THE GRADUATING batch of DLSU-CSB Multimedia Arts students ventures into digital imagery and motion. The students will hold their exhibit "Digify" on Sept. 7 and 8. It will feature all forms of contemporary art ranging from "old-school" drawings to "state-of-the-art" digital artworks. Not only that, the students will showcase their best works ever. From 3D animation, movies to interactive CDs, no doubt every kiosk will be filled with interesting and modern designs that help develop the subculture of the students. "Digify" will be held at the Philam Life Building along UN. For more details, call Manolet Garcia at 0917-5340574.

Tupperware global party day

Tupperware Philippines, a unit of one of the world's leading direct-selling company, is set to participate in a grand worldwide Tupperware party involving over 1 million dealers, 50,000 managers and 2,000 distributors in 100 countries. Tupperware Philippines incoming president and managing director Greg S. Voyik called upon its 93 distributors, over 60,000 managers and dealers, the entire Tupperware staff, and customers nationwide to show the unique Filipino spirit and determination. Its rallying slogan "All For One" hopes to strengthen the company's corporate values of unity and teamwork. Special incentives await party hostesses, while party guests are offered great product discounts. The public is invited to this global event. For inquiries, call your nearest Tupperware dealer, distributor, or at customer care hotline 815-9625.

Marian Conference '02 at PICC

MARIAN devotees from all over the country will gather for the Marian Conference 2002 on Saturday, Sept. 7, 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the Philippine International Convention Center, Roxas Boulevard, Manila. With "Mary Star of the New Millennium" as theme, the one-day event will feature Bishop Ramon C. Arguelles as main celebrant in the Holy Mass that will highlight the conference. The panel of speakers is composed of Bishop Jesse E. Mercado, Bishop Luis Antonio G. Tagle, Bishop Rolando Tria Tirona, Msgr. Antero A. Sarmiento, Bro. Ed Karganilla, and Ramon and Marissa Fernandez. Also lined up is the world premiere of the unique four Marian dogma icon prayer cards, healing service with the miraculous icon of Our Lady of Mediatrix of all Graces, Holy Mass, benediction, and confessions. For more information, call Regina Pacis Mundi Catholic Renewal Ministry at 811-4436, 811-4438, 811-4440, fax 811-4157, or 0916-3436449.

400 for UST's 400th

THE UST Publishing House will launch the first 20 titles of the 40 books it has earmarked for publication within this year on Saturday, Sept. 7, from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Function Room B, level 5, Megatrade Hall, SM Megamall (Building B), Mandaluyong City. The second of a series of periodic book launches spread over 10 years—2001 through 2011—with 40 titles per year, such that by 2011, which marks the 4th centenary of the University of Santo Tomas, the UST Publishing House would have published an aggregate of 400 books, to cap a project which the UST rector Fr. Tamerlane R. Lana OP dubbed "400 for UST's 400th." The authors will be available for book signings.

'PAGHAHANDOG 2002'

The Philippine Science High School (PSHS) Alumni Association calls on all graduates to come and join friends and guests in a heart-thumping, foot-stomping evening of fun and entertainment. 'Paghahandog, Sari-Sari, Hapi-Hapi, Sama-Sama', featuring the livewire dance show band Hyperbeat (whose members are shown above) and Angel Aquino as celebrity emcee, will be held on Sept. 7, 6 p.m. at the PSHS Gymnasium in Diliman, Quezon City. For more information, call Raquel Dave at 425-1866.

2002 NATIONAL CONSUMERS QUALITY

MAMA SITA OUTSTANDING BRAND

Mama Sita's Mixes and Sauces was recently chosen most outstanding seasoning mix brand by the Consumers Quality Council in awards ceremonies held at Camp Aguinaldo, for consistently producing quality and convenient products that help improve the lives of its consumers. Manufactured by Marigold Commodities Corp. (MCC), Mama Sita's Mixes and Sauces use only natural ingredients from indigenous plants. Founded by the late Teresita Reyes (Mama Sita) of the renowned Aristocrat Restaurant clan, MCC continuously develops products that promote Philippine culinary traditions. For more information on Mama Sita's Mixes and Sauces, log on to www.msita.com. Shown is MCC marketing assistant Jennifer Baider receiving the award from Bing Pimentel, Sen. Robert Barbers and Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes.

Firm upgrades foodservice industry

IT WAS in the early '90s that J. Roberts Baking Systems—with its bake-off bakery concept where customers see the breads baked right before their eyes—came into fore. The concept was a great hit. Today, almost every conceivable public establishment has a modernized bakery shop, a clear indication that the bakery industry has upgraded to international norms. Formulating the vision of providing the industry with the latest baking technology, J. Roberts has been recognized as the local partner of some of the world's leading manufacturers of bakery ovens, mixers, and dough sheeters. Through the efforts of its affiliate The Bakery Exchange Inc. (Bakerex), J. Roberts showcases some of the world's finest bakery and kitchen equipment at the ongoing AsiaFood Expo at the World Trade Center in Pasay City. The expo runs until Sept. 7.

'Walk While You Can'

THE PHILIPPINE Association for the Study of Overweight and Obesity (Pasoo) holds its Fitness Walk on Sunday at the Fort Bonifacio grounds. This is in observance of Obesity Prevention and Awareness Week. This year's theme is "Walk While You Can." Medical and para-medical practitioners, fitness enthusiasts, and the general public will participate in the walk. The walk starts at 6 a.m., followed by Holy Mass. Registration starts at 5:30. Free breakfast and free T-shirts will be given to participants. Free body fat analysis, cholesterol and blood pressure monitoring will be conducted at the site. Everyone is invited to "walk while they can."

Gov't to press GSP access for RP tuna

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE DEPARTMENT of Trade and Industry will push for the inclusion of Philippine canned tuna exports in the European Union's Generalized System of Preferences to gain more access in one of the world's biggest tuna markets.

In a news briefing, Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas II said he would lobby for EU-GSP privileges for canned tuna exports during the 4th Asia-Europe Economic Ministers Meeting in Denmark this month.

"The government and the private sector are exploring all avenues—formal or informal—for lobbying," Roxas said.

Intergovernmental negotiations held under the auspices of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development resulted in the adoption of the GSP, whereby preferential tariff treatment is granted on a non-reciprocal and non-discriminatory basis by most developed countries to exports from developing countries.

Specific products are allowed to enter the markets of preference-giving countries with most-favored-nation duties reduced or eliminated.

Roxas previously announced the trade department's plan to include canned tuna exports in the United States' GSP list of eligible products for duty-free perks after Washington turned down Malacañang's appeal to get the same duty-free perks granted to Andean countries.

"Since the US and EU markets account for at least 60 percent of our canned tuna exports, the government wants to attain a level playing field for this major dollar earner, especially for the benefit of Mindanao whose residents depend on the tuna industry," Roxas said.

The Philippines and Thailand have been rebuffed in their previous bid to seek the same duty-free perks granted by the European Union to canned tuna exports from African, Caribbean and Pacific countries.

Philippine and Thailand canned tuna exports are currently levied to lower duties on their canned tuna exports from 24 percent at present to between zero and 5 percent.

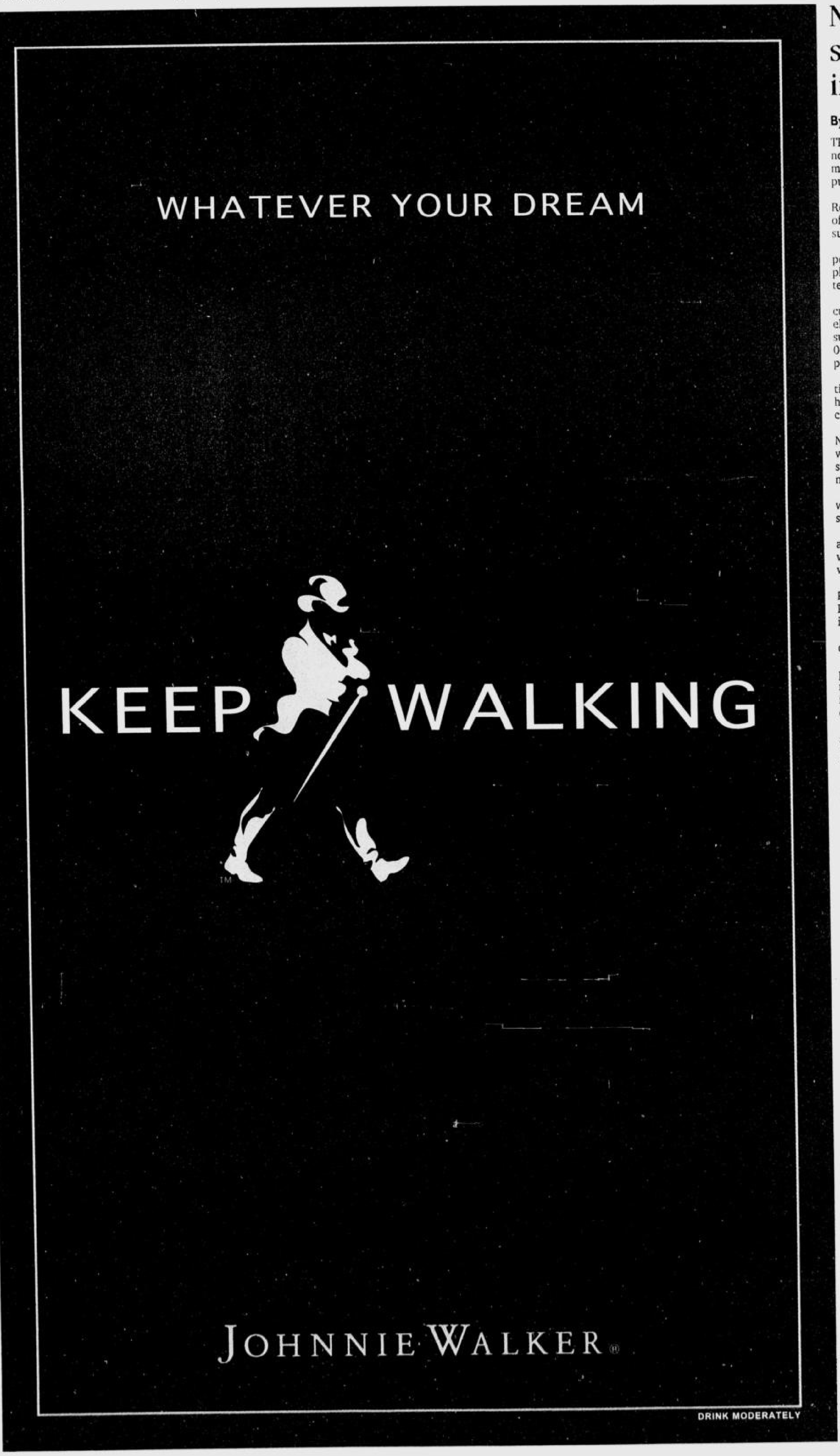
EU members can only amend the special trade pact that will allow the 77 ACP countries to export tuna to the 15-member European Union under a quota system and zero tariffs after a unanimous vote.

Spain and France have been identified as the main opponent of the ACP perks expansion.

After its failed negotiations with the European Union, the Philippines and Thailand have carried their battle for equal trade access to the dispute settlement body of the World Trade Organization.

As the government pushes for wider access, a leading tuna exporter, Gensan Aqua Traders, has agreed to facilitate a P300-million loan for tuna fishermen to bankroll their acquisition of fiberglass boats from Stoneworks Specialist International Corp.

Stoneworks will build more durable boats with bigger capacity (worth P2.5 million each) to boost the competitiveness of the country's tuna fishermen.



Napocor to cut sulfur content in coal purchases

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE NATIONAL Power Corp. yesterday announced that it would require starting next month a lower sulfur content level for its coal purchases.

In a statement, Napocor officer in charge Roland Quilala said Napocor's revised terms of reference for coal procurement required supplies to have a 0.7-percent sulfur content.

A rejection limit has been pegged at 0.8 percent, which means that Napocor's coal plants will reject shipments with sulfur content reaching that level.

Quilala said while the existing 0.9-percent cutoff level was already within acceptable levels based on the Clean Air Act's schedule of sulfur content reduction, a further decrease to 0.7 percent would lessen emission levels from power plants.

The Napocor chief added that the reduction in the sulfur content level would not have any impact on the cost of coal purchases.

He also said the revised terms allowed Napocor to tap a cargo protection service provider, a third party that would check if samples taken from the supplier's stockpile matched those of coal being delivered.

"This is to ensure that no substandard coal will be delivered to the power plants," Quilala said.

Napocor owns the Calaca plant in Batangas and the Masinloc plant in Zambales—both with a generating capacity of 600 megawatts—and the 105-MW Naga plant in Cebu.

Napocor is also buying power from Mirant Philippines' 1,200-MW Sual plant in Pangasinan and the 700-MW Pagbilao plant in Quezon.

Napocor is responsible for the procurement of the two plants' fuel needs.

Quilala reiterated that no Napocor coal plant received any notice from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources for violation of its environmental compliance certificates.

"Napocor will continue to take steps in ensuring that the operations of its (coal-fired) plants do not pose dangers to public health as well as the environment," he said.

Quilala was reacting to interest groups' call for the shutdown of Napocor's coal plants that they said were spewing harmful emissions.

The Department of Energy earlier warned of power shortages if the power plants were closed down immediately.

Energy Secretary Vincent Perez Jr. said the government wanted to keep the country's power generation mix diversified.

To produce electricity, the country uses energy from impounded water, underground steam, coal, natural gas, oil, wind, sun and biomass.

Microsoft to hire 5,000 more despite slump in infotech

By Raul C. Dancel

MICROSOFT Corp. said on Wednesday that it was hiring some 5,000 new employees this year, with its Asia-Pacific unit taking in 350 in the region, including the Philippines.

"Counter to what many other information technology companies are doing, we are investing. We are adding some 5,000 new people this year. That number is something like 350 people here in the Asia-Pacific region," Microsoft president for the Asia-Pacific and Japan Michael Rawding said in a news conference.

"We're investing because we think there is an opportunity, because we're a long-term player, and because we think we have some compelling solutions and capabilities that we can bring to our customers," he said.

Rawding said over the medium- to long-term, Microsoft was "very bullish" despite "a relative flattening or decrease in information technology investments."

Microsoft currently has 50 employees in the Philippines.

"We're still hiring," Microsoft Philippines Inc. managing director Kevin Hou said in an interview.

Microsoft is currently working on a number of projects with some of the country's biggest companies.

For feedback, text us at (0918)917-5026 or email us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

STYLE

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Fashion method to stage madness

Text by Bea Valdes
Contributor
Photos by Chito Vecina

THE STAGE is set in a hallucination of shards and shadows. A gate reaches upward, like claws, fencing the players in. Music floats in and out, as in a trance.

"Drakula," the legend of depravity and decline, has been rewritten in the vernacular.

Danilo Franco, in designing the costumes of this experimental piece, examines that fractured dimension of dreams. He exposes the crossroad between lucid and liquid.

Bram Stoker's "Dracula" is set in the Victorian period. The novel questions the dichotomy between order and chaos and their relation to gender, culture and sexuality. During that era, clothes were tailored conservatively. Corsets and hoop skirts emphasized the female silhouette. Men wore vests underneath rigid coats.

But for Tanghalang Pilipino Foundation Inc.'s production, Franco takes this repressive costuming and passes it through the sieve of nightmare.

His fabrics seem stripped from the unconscious: denim and cheesecloth, color-blocked velvets, moiré and gauze, whose dyes bleed into each other.

On these materials, he applies experimental techniques. There is method to the madness. Characters yet untouched by Drakula's hand are suited in starched, stiff material. Jonathan Harker and Dr. Seward dress in corduroy and tweed embellished with buttons and embroidery. Mina's coat, bustle and skirt, are impressions of proper attire, with rigid X's across her bodice. Franco re-tailors them with a modern edge, but still dovetailing with the motif of suppression of desire.

For those bitten by Drakula, Franco gives us the aftermath of studied lashing and slashing. Rendered to tatters, Renfield wears a straightjacket without any locks. All over, Franco pleats and puckers the fabric. Its oversized arms are tied behind Renfield's torso, making it appear the character has twisted himself into his own delirium. In the distance, he appears to be caught in a great zipper.

The Succubus, with corset barely perceptible, is a mass of gauze rushing from the edges inward. To achieve this billowy costume, Franco could not just pass on sketches. He distressed, dyed and spray-painted the costume himself. He discovered how, in the theater's particular light, silver spray paint would transform to dust.

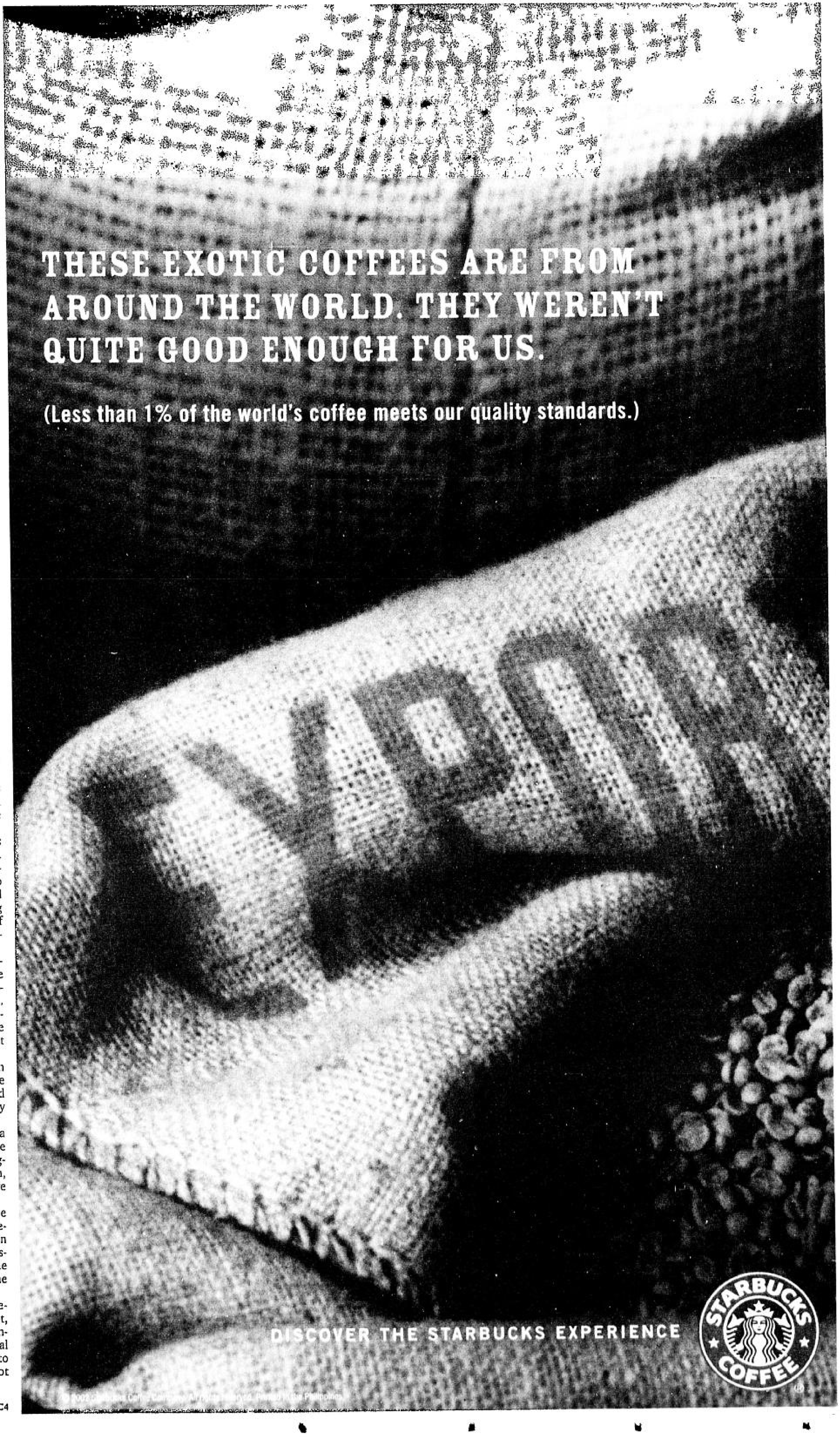
In another outfit, one which Lucy dons in her madness, Franco produces a child-like nightgown. In juxtaposing innocence and bloodlust, he heightens the terror and beauty of the scene.

For Drakula's character, Franco presents a thoroughly modern phantasm: The costume bears the effects of distressing, of giant zigzagging seams, of sharp fraying. Ana Valdes-Lim, the director, said they were looking for "more of a rock-star feel."

Using the contemporary trend of salvage fashion, Drakula does seem a specter in a decaying denim. Drakula begins as a shroud in the dark, slowly exposing himself as he satisfies his hunger. Until, in this theater of the macabre, he is seen as most powerful when he disrobes.

CCP's "Drakula" affords Franco a "freewheeling imagination." He read the script, sat-in on the readings, and watched the run-throughs in order to understand the material and characters. His research enabled him to create costumes that are powerful but not overpowering.

FASHION/ p.C4



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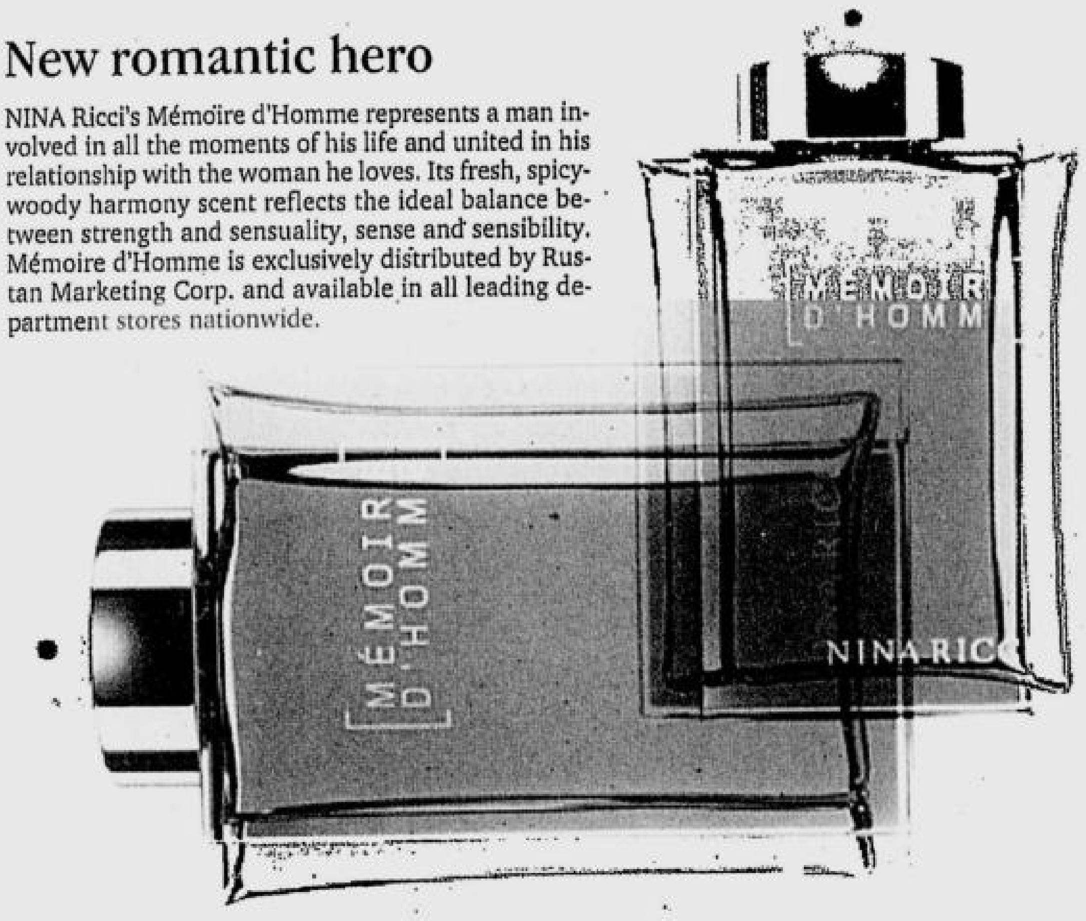
Refreshing scents

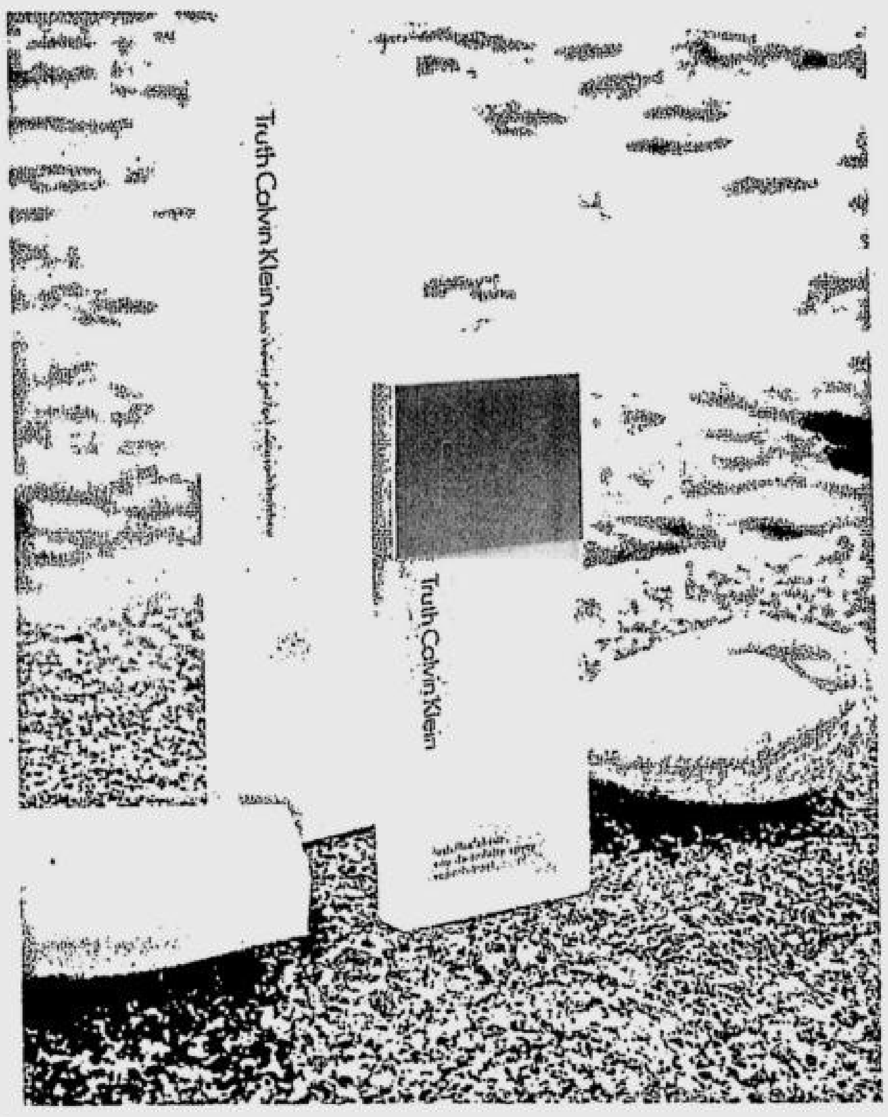
New romantic hero

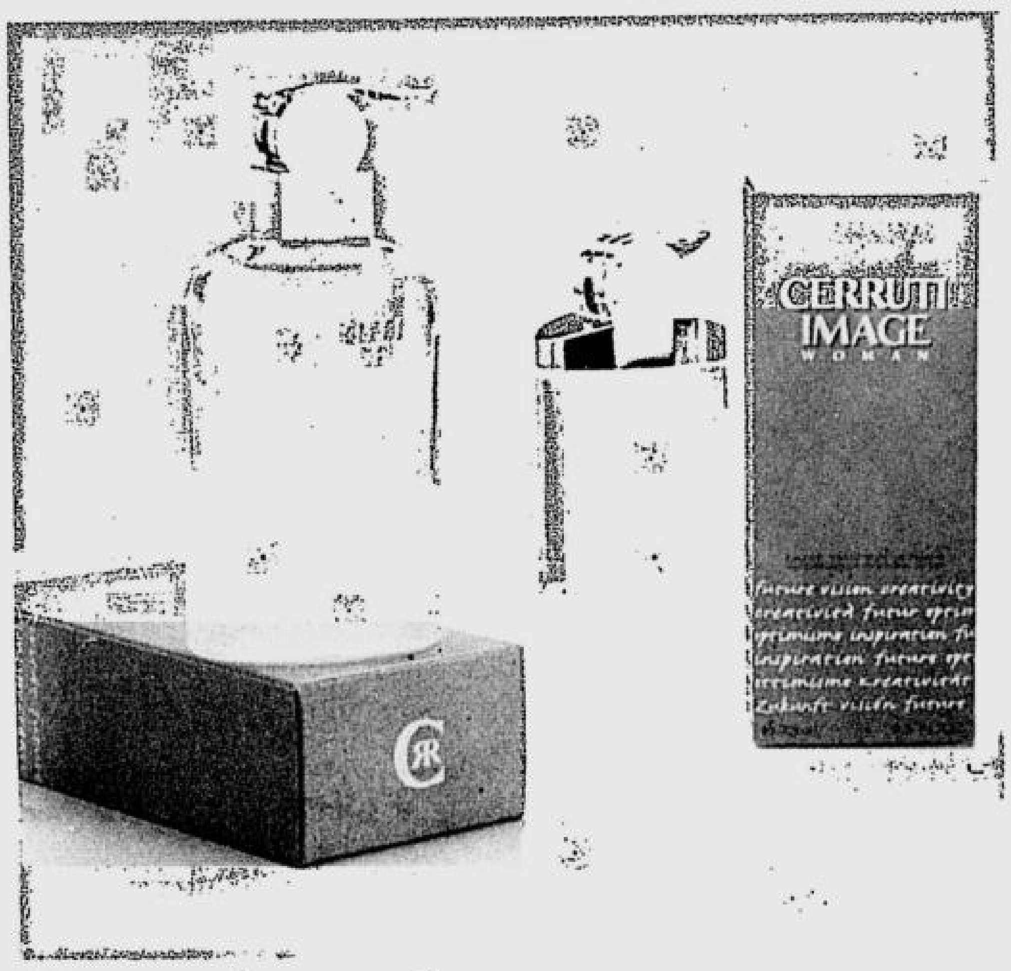
NINA Ricci's Mémoire d'Homme represents a man involved in all the moments of his life and united in his relationship with the woman he loves. Its fresh, spicy-woody harmony scent reflects the ideal balance between strength and sensuality, sense and sensibility. Mémoire d'Homme is exclusively distributed by Rustan Marketing Corp. and available in all leading department stores nationwide.



Inspired by nature

TRUTH Calvin Klein lush eau de toilette spray is a vibrant fragrance that arouses and inspires the senses. Top notes of sapling, bergamot and bamboo blend to create an uplifting quality. Middle notes of wild rose and silk tree flower add depth and femininity. White amber, musk and white sandalwood provide a sensual appeal. Truth Calvin Klein is exclusively distributed by Rustan Marketing Corp. and available in all leading department stores nationwide.





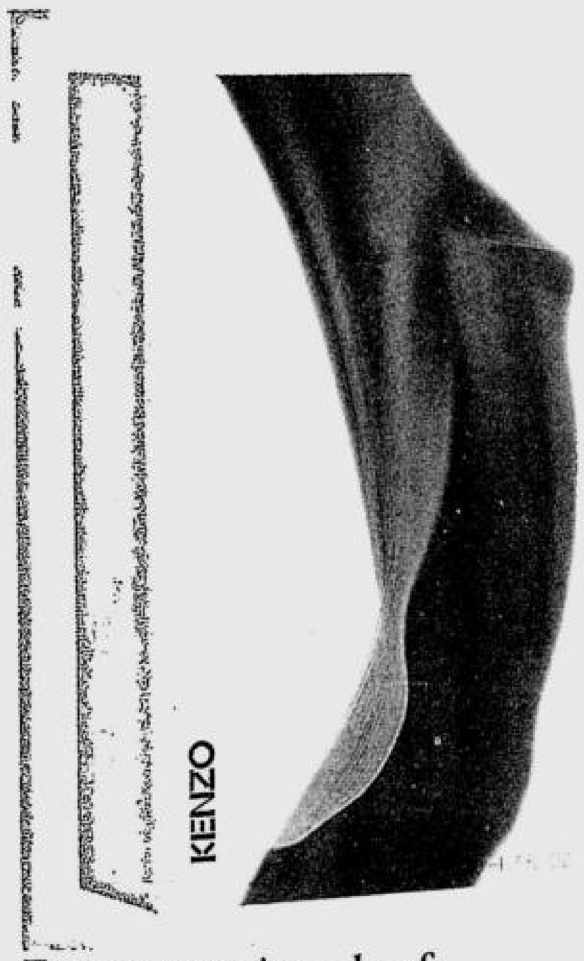
Warm and sensual

THE CERRUTI Image Man and Woman fragrances reflect the five Cerruti Image values that personify the lifestyle of many Filipinos: optimism, creativity, inspiration, vision and future. The blue Cerruti Image Man represents freedom from the burdens and worries of everyday life. Cerruti Image Woman's warm, textured and sunny red feature expresses vibrant feminine energy. Cerruti Image is exclusively distributed by Rustan Marketing Corp. and available in all leading department stores nationwide.

GIVENCHY POUR HOMME

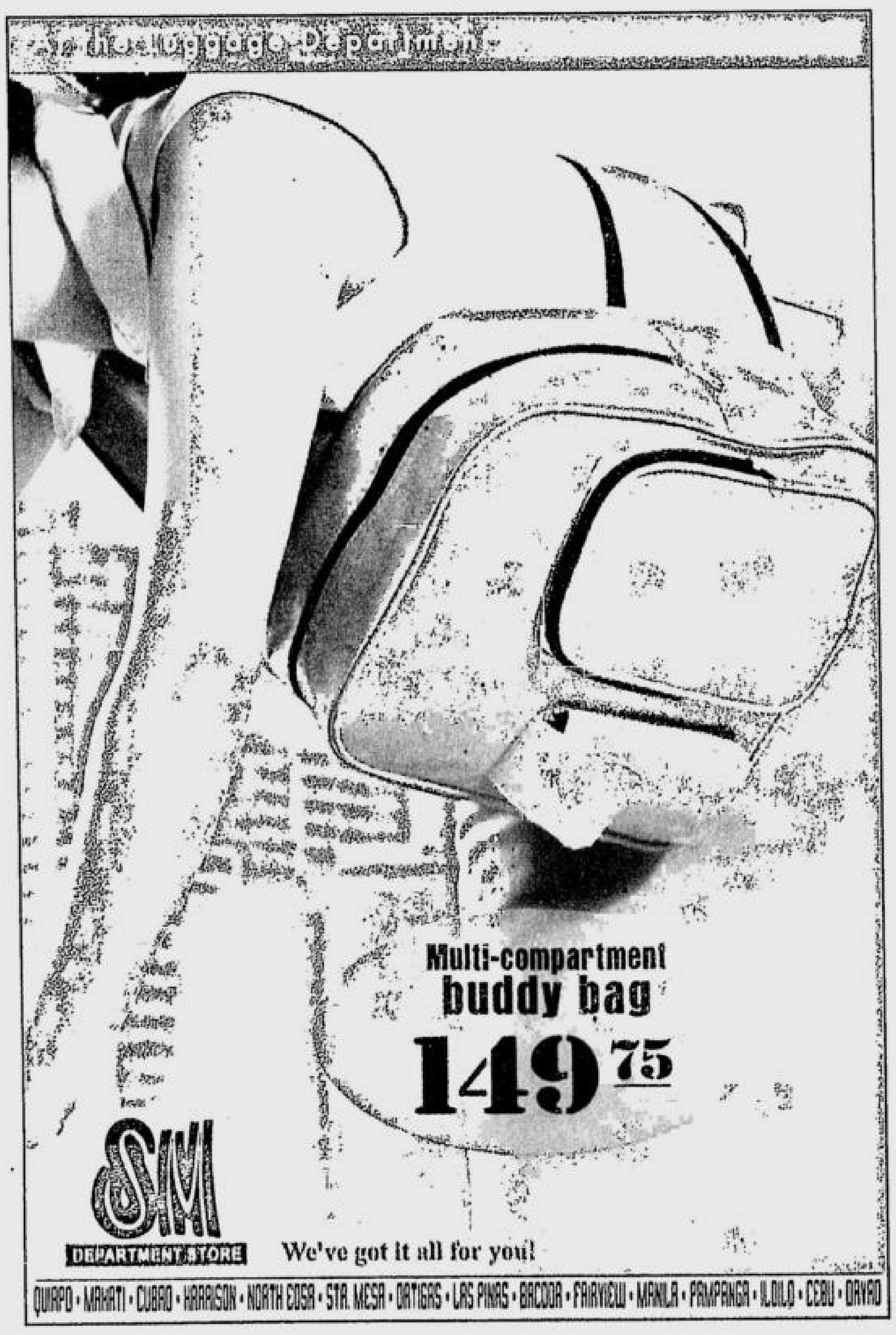
Essence of masculinity

GIVENCHY Pour Homme pays homage to the classic yet modern man who possesses a physical and moral elegance that springs from inner ease and confidence. It combines the essences of masculine freshness, sensual mystery and nobility. Its notes are coriander, hedione, earthy vetiver, deep cedar and olibanum wood. Givenchy Pour Homme is exclusively distributed by Rustan Marketing Corp. and available in all leading department stores nationwide.



Fragrance in a leaf

KENZO Parfum d'Ete reminds us of the joys of summer. Its floral scents of jasmine, peony, hyacinth and peach blossom mingle with the quaint smell of natural green leafy lily of the valley and aquatic lotus. The result? A feminine freshness and sophisticated charm bottled in the still beauty of a dancing leaf just waiting to rest on your palm. Parfum d'Ete is exclusively distributed by Rustan Marketing Corp. and available in all leading department stores nationwide.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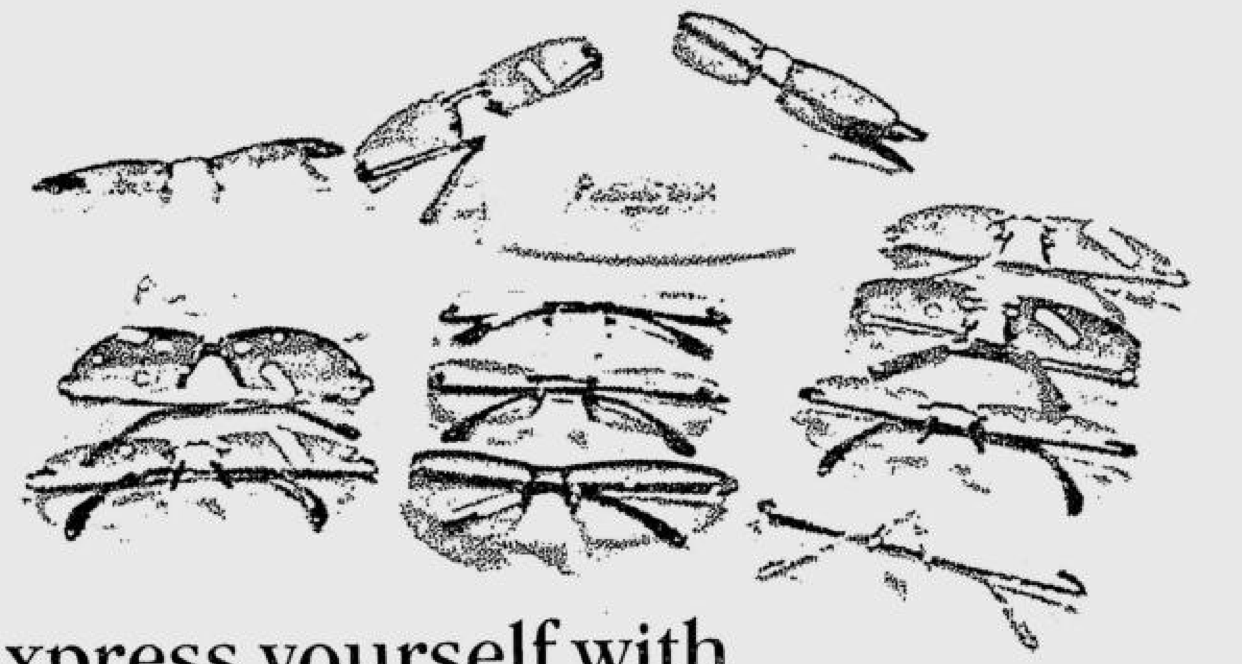

Express yourself with new eyewear collection

EYEWEAR is now considered a means of expressing one's personality. It has reached the level of being a strong fashion accessory and is not merely an instrument for correcting or protecting one's vision.

Express yourself in nonconforming shapes and lens color of Pacific Blue sunglasses. Sunglasses that certainly do not go unnoticed, especially for those who love to stay in the fashion league. Colorful, eclectic and with high design content. Pacific Blue presents its latest sunglass collection that showcases an array of light-tint flash mirror lens models that are the current trend in Europe and US. Sunglasses that give you a clear view of your surroundings, day in and day out, while they effectively hide your gaze when you wish to be in recluse. Fashionable, yet they protect your eyes from glare. With this latest trend in lens fashion, you have another reason to wear sunglasses at night.

Pacific Blue Flash Mirror models come in pink, mauve, brown and blue, and are available at all Shoemart outlets nationwide.

Discover a natural lifestyle in Opta festival

THE ORGANIC Producers Trade Associations Philippines (Opta) is organizing the first Organic Harvest Festival on Sept. 12-15 at the 4/L of Robinson's Galleria, Edsa.

The festival's theme "Discovering the Natural Lifestyle—a Blend of Nature and Science" is meant to be a wake-up call to farmers, producers, consumers and national policy makers that going organic is a forward move toward a sustainable agriculture production system.

With the advent of imported food products flooding our market, especially GMOs that unknowing and unsuspecting consumers buy, Opta officers feel that there is an urgency to push more aggressively for the mainstreaming of organic farming in the agriculture scene.

The festival will feature three types of pavilions that will demonstrate environmental soundness, organic farming and alternative/wholistic healing products. There will be restaurants serving authentic organic dishes.

The four-day event is packed with interesting activities such as a unique organic fashion performance portraying the past, present and future organic lifestyle through the creations of Patis Tesoro and Dita Sandico-Ong. There will be daily high-powered seminars on the latest trends and technology in organic farming. There will also be an organic culinary showdown and a special setting of a healing garden and activities for children.

A "recycled" fashion show moves out to selected schools in Metro Manila, with the message of going organic.

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SEPTEMBER 2002 CLASS SCHEDULE

DIMSUM and CHINESE PASTRY Classes with HONG KONG CHEFS
September 10, Tuesday, 5-8 pm Dimsum 1: Steamed Beancurd Skin Stuffed with Bamboo Shoots/ Shrimp/ Pork and Oyster Sauce, (Kui Cha Steamed Pao) Steamed Chinese Bread with Chives and Shrimp, Chinese Steamed Vanilla Cake (Ma-La-Go), Hong Kong Favorite Deep Fried Shrimp Dumpling, Deep Fried Spring Roll with Taro and Shrimp and Pork (Taro Lumpia) P 1,500

September 17, Tuesday, 5-8 pm Dimsum 2: Steamed Chicken Parcejed with Chinese Mushroom and Ham, Children Favorite Steamed Beef Ball with Water Chestnuts, Steamed Baby Squid with Garlic, Baked Chinese Custard with Red Mongo, Pan Fried Beancurd Skin Stuffed with Chinese Mushroom and Shrimp P 1,500

September 24, Tuesday, 5-8 pm Dimsum 3: Steamed Baby Squid with Satay Sauce, Steamed Bread with Chinese Cabbage (Petchay) and Shrimp and Pork, Sticky Rice Steamed with Chinese Mushroom in Lotus Leaf, Deep Fried Won Ton with Sweet and Sour Dip, Chinese Deep Fried Sweet Glutinous Bun with Sesame Seed (Buchi) P 1,500

October 1, Tuesday, 5-8 pm Dimsum 4: Spareribs Steamed with Black Beans and Chili (Taosi), Steamed Dumpling with Coriander/ Pork/ Shrimp, Glutinous Rice (Malagkit) Steamed Roll (Sio Pao Dough), Famous Hong Kong "Yum Cha" Chicken Feet, Lotus Seed Steamed Pao (Lin Yang Pao) P 1,500

CHINESE CUISINE with our HONG KONG CHEFS
September 7, Saturday, 10:30-1:30 pm Chinese Cuisine 1: Famous Hong Kong Hot and Sour Bisque (Soup), Royal Prawns Steamed with Garlic, Fried Fillet of Gualupa (Lapu Lapu) with Fresh Tomato Sauce, Braised Chicken with Taro in Clay Pot, Bitter Melon (Ampalaya) Saute with Fluffy Egg P 1,500

September 14, Saturday, 10:30-1:30 pm Chinese Cuisine 2: Sliced Beef and Fresh Tomato Broth, Royal Prawns Panfried with Superior Soy Sauce, Deep Fried Fresh Gualupa Filet accompanied with a Creamy Sweet Corn Sauce, Young Green Cabbage (Taiwanese Petchay) Saute with Garlic, Special Chopped Chicken Saute from Low Ding, Steamed Egg with Chinese Vermicelli (Sotanghon) and Dried Shrimp P 1,500

September 21, Saturday, 10:30-1:30 pm Chinese Cuisine 3: Famous Cold Sliced Seaweeds (Jellyfish) with Century Egg Saute, Small Prawns with Fresh Chili and Spicy Salt, Steamed Slice Pork with Preserved White Raddish, The Famous Vegetarian Delice, Chinese Black Mushroom and Young Bamboo Shoots Saute in Oyster Sauce, Beef Saute with Fluffy Scrambled Egg, Broccoli Cooked with Fresh Ginger Cubes P 1,500

September 28, Saturday, 10:30-1:30 pm Chinese Cuisine 4: Cream Soup with Sweet Corn and Ground Chicken, The Fantastic Frog Legs Saute with Black Soy Beans and Chili (Taosi), Slight Deep Fried Young Fresh Squid, Grandmother's Dried Fish Steamed with Ground Pork, Chinese Broccoli (Kai Lan) Cooked in a Chicken Broth, Steamed Fresh Japanese Beancurd with Superior Soy Sauce P 1,500

October 5, Saturday, 10:30-1:30 pm Chinese Cuisine 5: Cold Spicy Sliced Seawood (Jellyfish) Julennes of Carrot and Bellpepper in Salade, Deep Fried Pork Spareribs Braised in "King Toh" Style, Braised Beancurd with Vegetables in Clay Pot, A Wonderful Vegetarian Dish, Steamed Eel with Sliced Ginger and Spring Onion, Chinese Vermicelli (Sotanghon) Cooked with Dried Shrimp and Chinese Cabbage (Baguio Petchay) (Half Soup, Half Sauce), The Cantonese Omelet with Ground Pork and Preserved White Raddish in a Tortilla Style P 1,500

October 12, Saturday, 10:30-1:30 pm Chinese Cuisine 6: Seafood Bisque with Beancurd and White Egg, Pork Spareribs Steamed with Black Soy Beans and Fresh Chili, Sliced Sirloin Beef Saute in Oyster Sauce, Chinese Vermicelli (Sotanghon) Stewed with Dried Shrimp and Vegetables, Braised Galupa's Head with Chinese Mushroom, Bitter Melon Saute with Garlic P 1,500

September 9, Monday, 10 am – 3 pm BREAD MAKING 1 Pan de Sal, Ensaimada Especial (w/ Cheese & Ube Filling), Dinner Rolls, Pear Walnut Bread P 1,200

September 11, Wednesday, 9 am-1 pm BAKING 6 For Chocolate Lovers! French Chocolate Cake, Black Forest Cake, Churros con Chocolate, Austrian Chocolate Cake P 1,200

September 11, Wednesday, 2-5 pm Very special dishes by Chef Mauro Arjona: Pan Fried Foie Gras with Raspberry Honey Sauce, Chicken Mushroom Soup, Lapu Lapu Salmon Prawns Roulade in Saffron Sauce, Scallops with Gambas Sauce and Arugula Salad, White Chocolate Creme Brulee P 1,500

September 12, Thursday, 1-5 pm BAKING 8 Elegant Desserts: Hazelnut and Tangerine Tiramisu, Mango Napoleon, Individual Baked Alaska, Capuccino Brownies with White Chocolate Espresso Sauce P 1,200

September 13, Friday, 10 am – 2 pm FRUITCAKES: Traditional Fruitcake, Semolina Fruitcake P 2,200

September 14, Saturday, 2-5 pm HAM MAKING Learn how to cure, cook and roast your own ham for the holidays. Completely hands-on with individual take home. Bonus: Mapled Baked Beans P 1,800

September 18, Wednesday, 9-12 nn ASIAN COOKING 2: Pie Tee (Appetizer), Chicken Curry, Red Curried Mussels over Noodles, Grilled Beef with Grapes and Mint Salad, Satay, Takoh (Thai Coconut Custard) P 1,200

September 18, Wednesday, 1-5pm BREAD MAKING 2 Croissants, Carrot Bread, Raisin Bread, Gruyere Garlic Bread, Banana Bread P 1,200

September 20, Friday, 2-5 pm COOKING 2 Bacolod Inasal, Paella Bicolana, Long Canneloni, Mango Balabalua P 800

September 21, Saturday, 2-5 pm BASIC BAKING 1 A HANDS ON experience for students to learn the basics of baking from the proper way of measuring ingredients to the presentation of the finished product. Chiffon Cake, Coffee Crunch Cake, Sponge Cake, Strawberry and White Chocolate Trifle, Rich Butter Cake, Pie Crust, American Apple Pie P 1,200

September 28, Saturday, 2-5 pm BASIC BAKING 2 Baking with Frostings and Icings: Brownie Cake with Chocolate Sour Cream Frosting, Apple Walnut cake with Creamy Caramel Frosting, Chocolate Decadent Cake with Chocolate Fudge Icing and Caramel Sauce, Maple Walnut Cake with Fluffy White Frosting P 1,200

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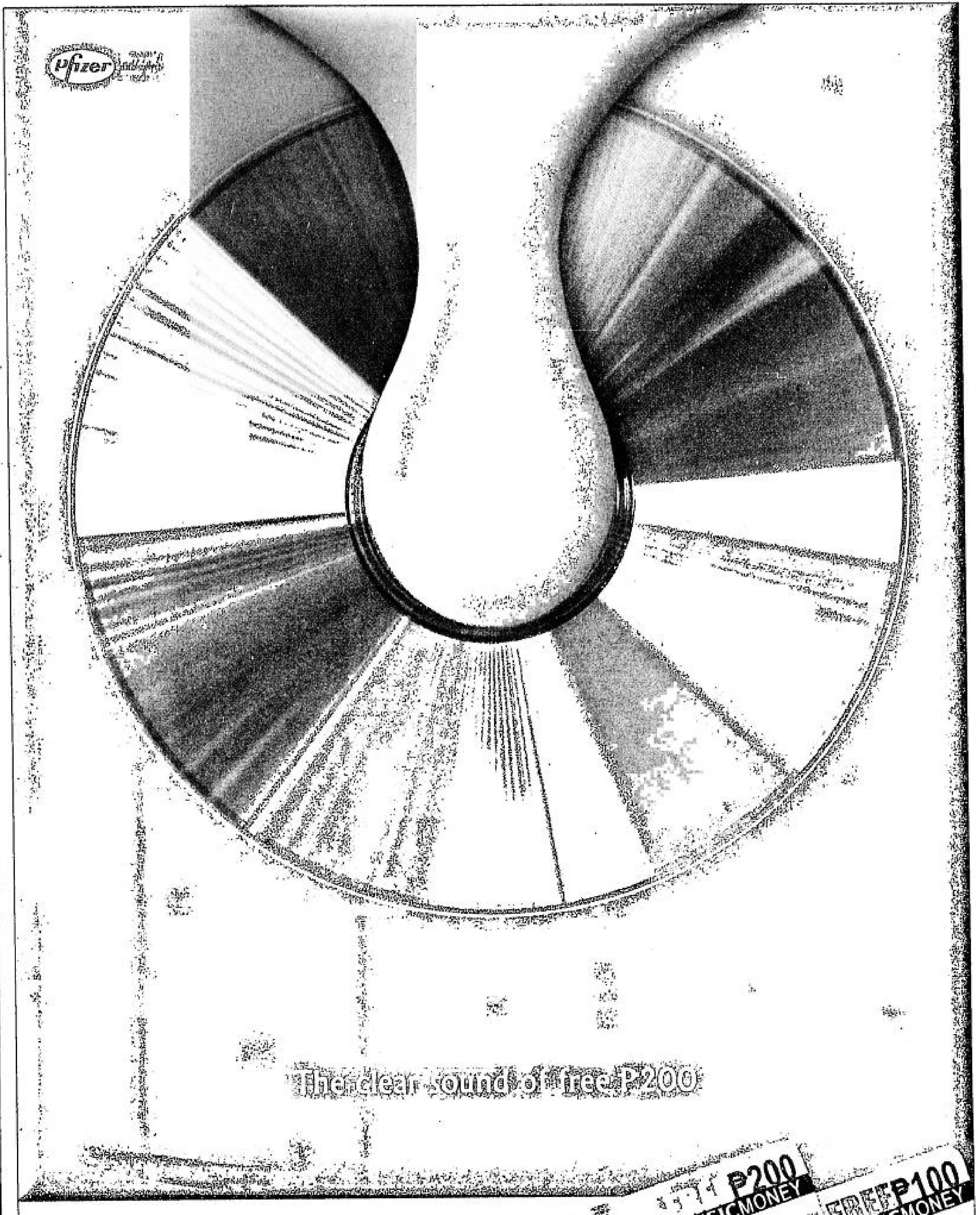
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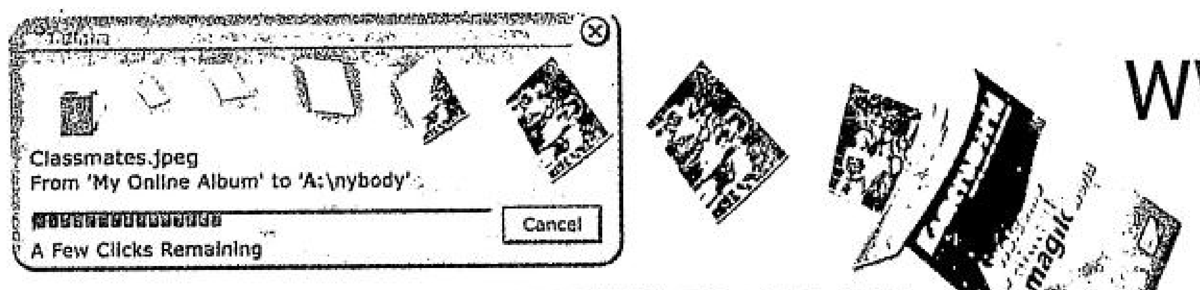

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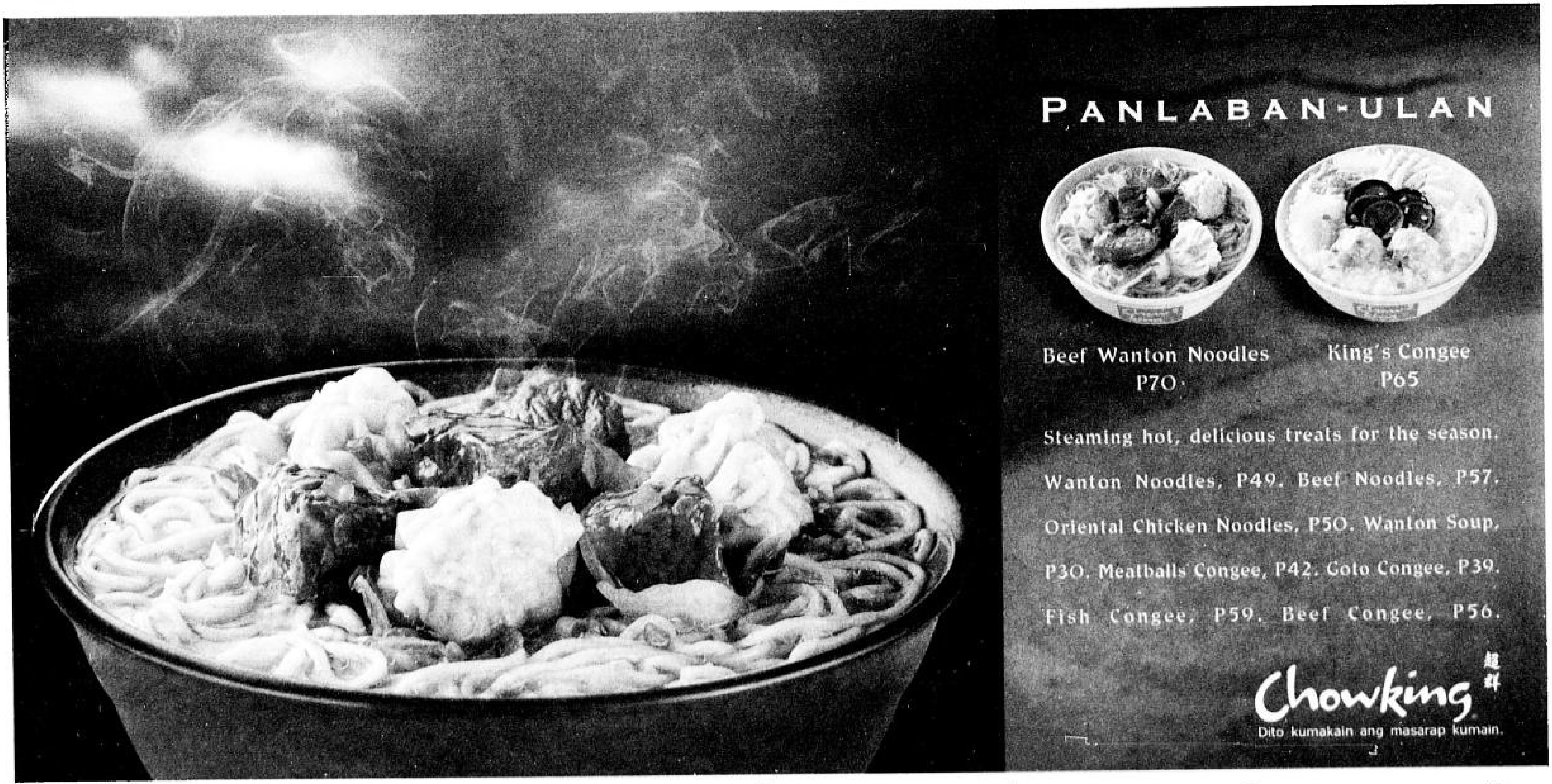
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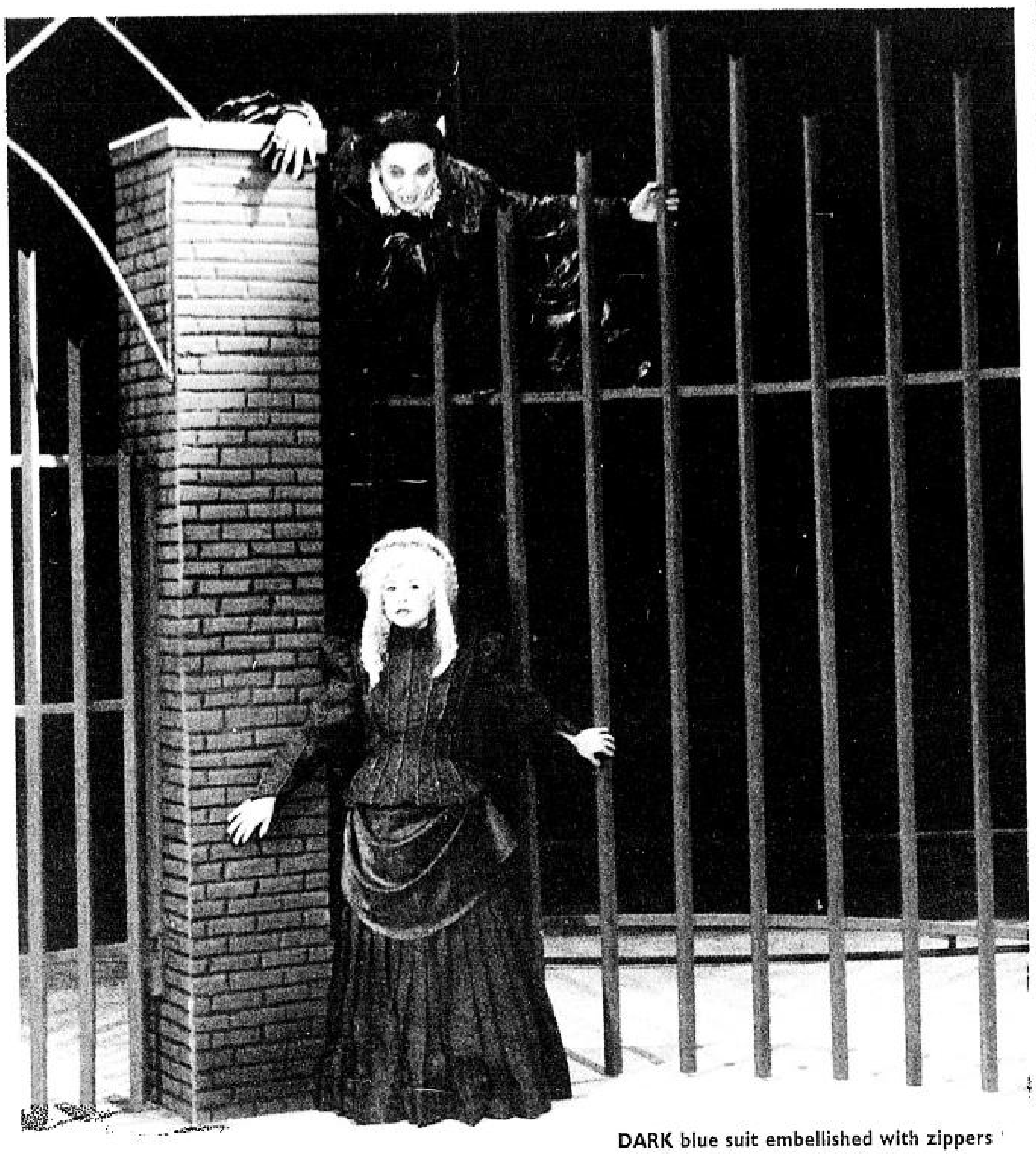
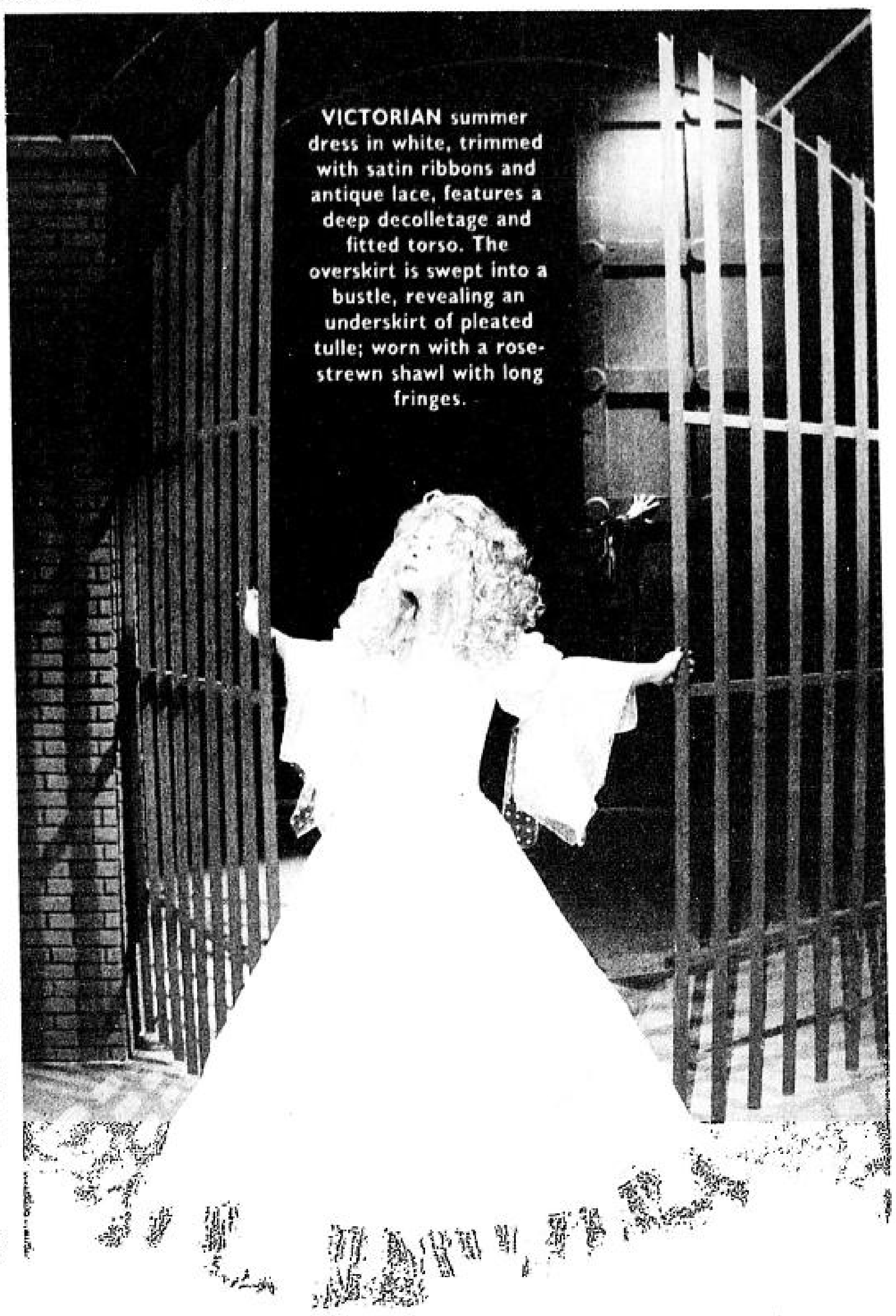
Chowking
Dito kumakain ang masarap kumain.



DARK blue suit embellished with zippers and a matching pleated skirt



VICTORIAN summer dress in white, trimmed with satin ribbons and antique lace, features a deep decolletage and fitted torso. The overskirt is swept into a bustle, revealing an underskirt of pleated tulle; worn with a rose-strewn shawl with long fringes.

Fashion method to stage madness

In the Filipino version of Liz Lochhead's 'Drakula,' Danilo Franco makes use of his high-couture skills to paint the macabre

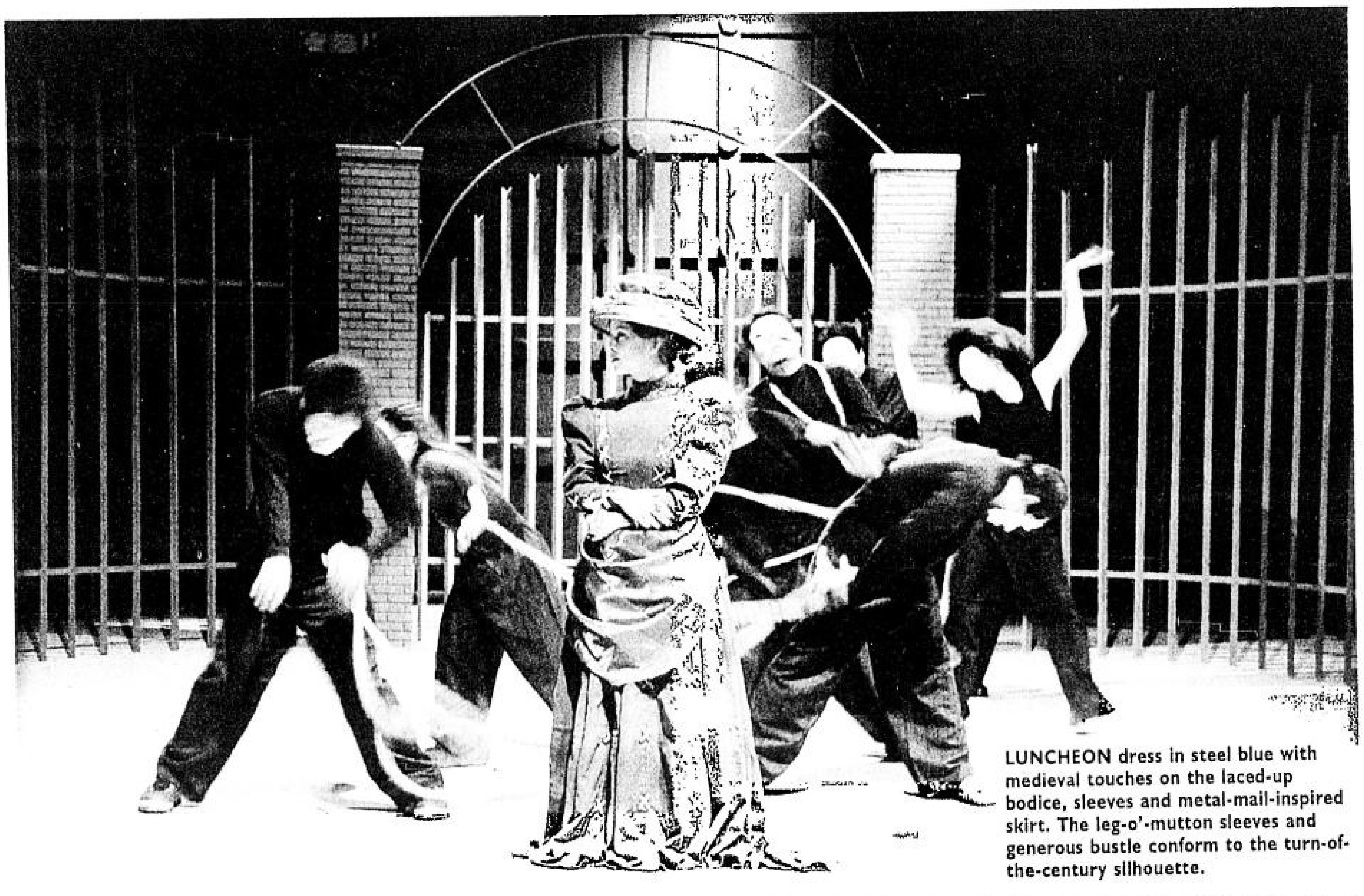
From page C1

It is the first time Franco captures the whole costuming of a play. Each piece has a role, whether inciting violent fantasies or evoking eroticism. His pieces swing from innocence to dementia and evil.

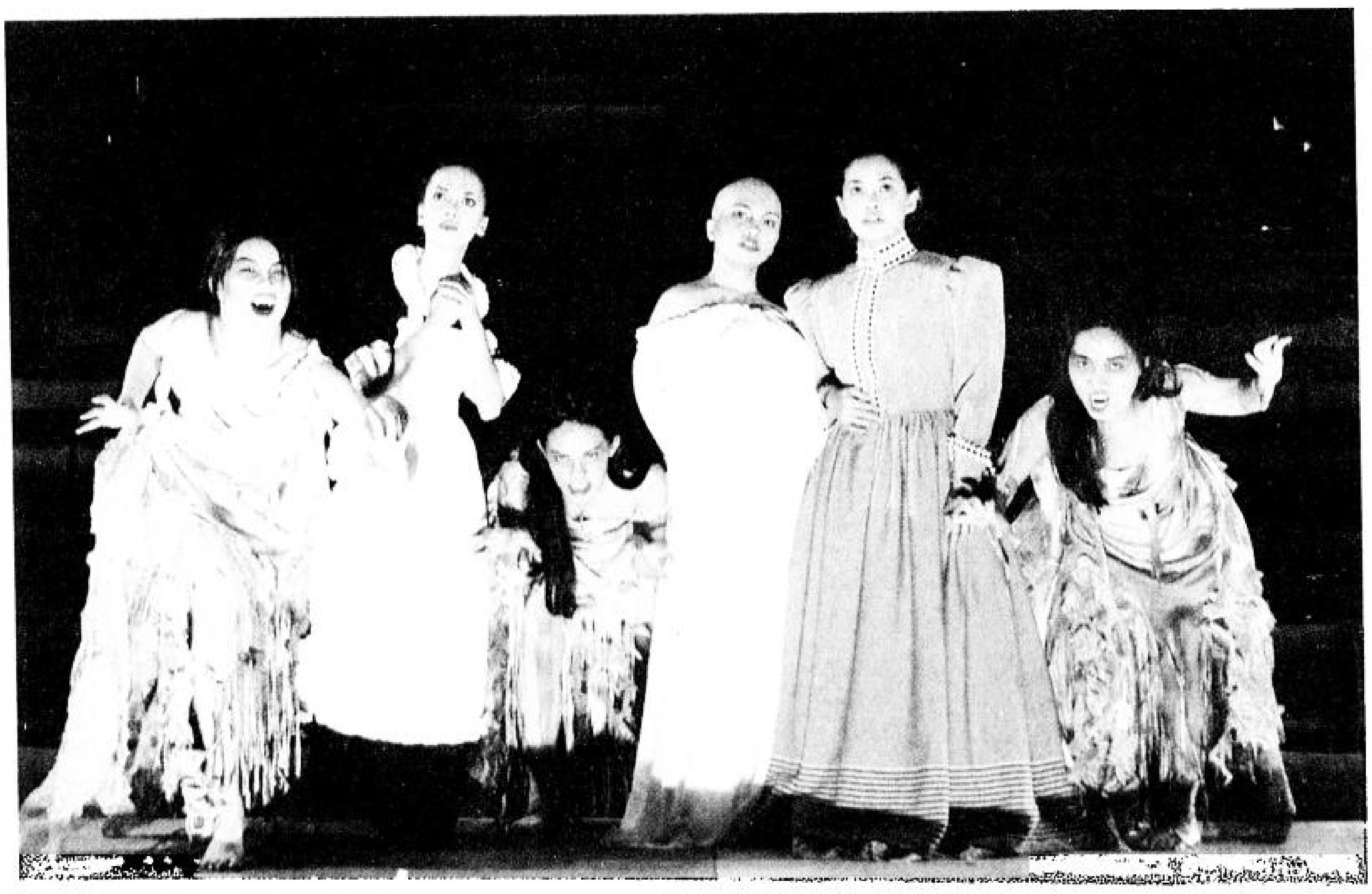
The whole production captures that eerie imperfection of an echo; everything feels almost tangible. CCP's "Drakula" exposes the heart of a recurring nightmare.

Tanghalang Pilipino's "Drakula" premieres at 8 tonight at the CCP Little Theater, and will run up to Sept. 22 (8 p.m. Thursday and Friday, and 2:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday). Call 832-3661 or 832-1125 local 1620.

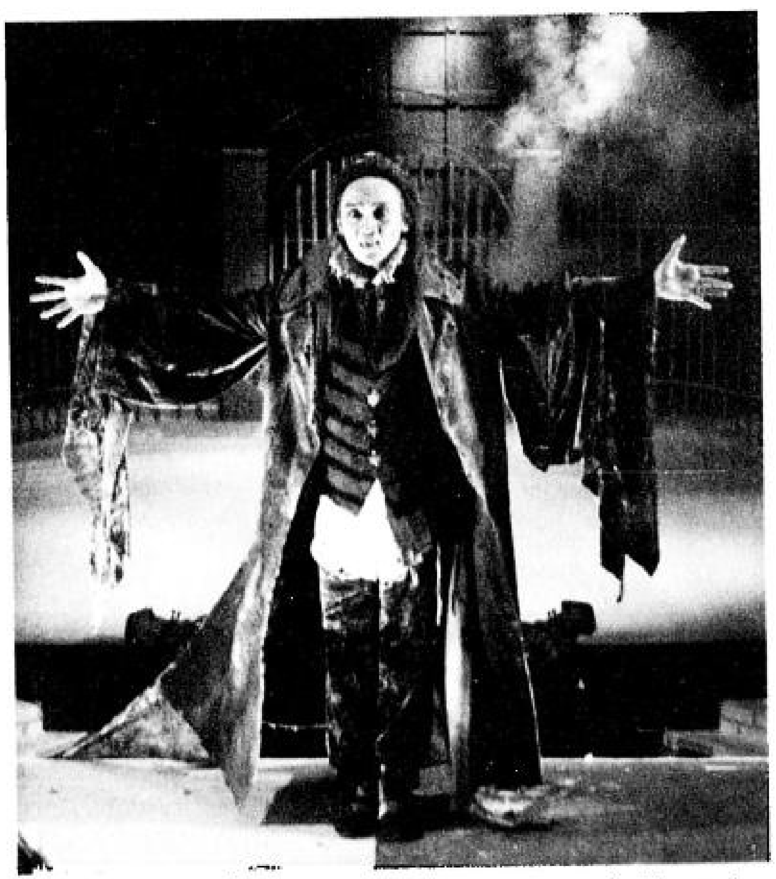
COSTUME DESIGN:
DANILO FRANCO
MODELS:
TESSA PRIETO-VALDES AND THE CAST OF "DRAKULA"
STYLING:
ANA VALDES-LIM AND HERBERT GO



LUNCHEON dress in steel blue with medieval touches on the laced-up bodice, sleeves and metal-mail-inspired skirt. The leg-o'-mutton sleeves and generous bustle conform to the turn-of-the-century silhouette.



CORSETS with draped details; frayed and deconstructed wedding dresses in a collage of textures



DECONSTRUCTED denim, corduroy and twill coat in blue and black, over eggplant trousers, crimson brocade vest and cream shirt

Stunning looks from unconventional cosmetics

MAKEOVER 911

Kinny Salas

A demo makeover using Estee Lauder's new makeup line packs beautiful surprises

SOME weeks ago, I had to go to a special occasion. I could have very well put on my own makeup, but Rustan's Makati's PR invited me over for a makeup session with Estee Lauder's star makeup artist from Singapore named Michelle. They were there to launch their Pure Color line of cosmetics with its new cool packaging. I figured, what have I got to lose? If I didn't like it, I could always wash it off and apply my own.

Since I had known how to paint my own face since I was 12, I was not one to be easily impressed. Upon sitting on the stool, I issued Michelle a challenge. I picked three green shades from the Pure Color eye shadow line, which I could never use on my own face. I had used blue, purples and plums, but whenever I tried green, it was always disastrous. Michelle shrugged and said no problem, but could she pick another color? Sure, I said, as long as it wasn't a neutral like beige, brown or gray. She picked a frosted yellow called lemon square. This was definitely something I couldn't imagine working.

Good start

She started with a base that matched my skin exactly—the Equalizer #21 or warm ivory. Off to a good start, most makeup artists usually make a mistake on this one. She then proceeded shaping my eyebrows by trimming and filling them in with 2-in-1 brow eyeliner. Michelle used her fingers most of the time for every part of my face, especially with the eye makeup. During my session, I interviewed her in return. She was sent here to train the Estee counter ladies at Beauty Bar and Rustan's, and she was very confident that the ones she had trained could now do it as well as she did. I asked, who in particular at Rustan's Makati? She named three: Mariel, Christine and Aileen.

We got to talk about the Pure Color line and she told me the ice-cube design was a breakaway from their usual gold flute lipstick case and navy eye shadow compact. The formula was also different as eye shadow went on sheer, so one could just pile it up if it were too light and stop just in time if one started to look clowny. The lipsticks also have flavors. They can be creamy, but stay longer and fade evenly due to the rich pigment. I was getting a bit uneasy as she continued using her fingers, as I began to imagine fingerprints all over my eye area. She finally blended it with a brush and applied eyeliner under my eyes. She brushed on Illusionist Mascara, which made my lashes look naturally thick. This, she said, would serve as my upper eyeliner as well. She then applied my blush with a brush and set everything with white light powder in 01 (cool porcelain). I noticed a crowd surrounding us by now and scrutinizing my face. Great, I thought, I either look good or like a circus act. As she applied one of their latest lipstick shades called Tiger Eye, a beige gold shade from their fall-winter forecast, I noticed others signing up for a makeup session. Most of them walked away buying a new tube of lipstick and two cubes of eye shadow from the Pure color line. Others, thanks to Michelle, discovered their exact foundation shade and formula and left with a bottle.

Speechless

The finished product left me speechless. I looked different, but in a very good way. I had no idea I could wear greens and yellow on my eyes! I looked exotic and mysterious at the same time. I checked the list and seven other people wanted a makeover after my demo. A little girl pointed at me and said, "Fairy!" I went to my party and people told me I looked different and should use colors instead of my usual "natural look" more often.

The prices? Equally Smart Foundation, P1,600; Pure color eye shadow (lemon square, mint ice, aqua pool, camouflage), P960; 2-in-1 brow/eyeliner, P1,400; Automatic eyeliner, P1,300; Illusionist Mascara-black P1,000; Blusher in Tawny Desire, P1,325; Whitelight Powder, P2,670 (with compact) P1,950 for refill; and Pure Color Lipstick, P880.

Your makeover comes with no obligation to buy. Whatever you walk out with is your own voluntary purchase.

Most famous purchases after a makeover? Lipstick in reds and frosty nudes and eye shadow cubes in the purple family. Prior to any makeover: nudes and browns are still the bestsellers.

Note: Bobbi Brown counters also offer makeover and its makeup artists are well trained in the US.

For any questions or products you want to road-test, write to Makeover 911, PDI Lifestyle or fax to 897-4805

Silver jewelry shop opens outlet in Alabang mall

"A DREAM come true" can best describe the newest outlet of Michelis, the country's finest maker of sterling silver jewelry. Rustan's Alabang Town Center is the newest home of Michelis, and it also serves as a manifestation of a lifelong dream of Mia Faustmann and her parents.

For years, Mia has always envisioned Michelis to be a famous brand among discriminating collectors and fashionistas who love their silver jewelry. Her first shops at the lobby of the Manila Peninsula, Greenbelt Mall and Power Plant Mall paved the way for Michelis toward this goal.

The store's popular collections are now available at the newest Rustan's Michelis outlet. Call 812-3456 local 2996.

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Jollibee Journal

A million-peso Jollibee burger

Congratulations to Ellen Cuay of Cagayan de Oro, the country's newest millionaire courtesy of Jollibee!

The Jollibee mascot, together with Jollibee officials Leo Maglasang and Trisha Raffinan award Ellen Cuay her million-peso check.

A Jollibee aficionado, Ellen joined Jollibee's *Yumilyonaryo Puzzle to a Million Promo*, the fastfood chain's first million-peso raffle draw in Visayas and Mindanao.

Contestants were asked to complete four puzzle cards that featured four Jollibee products. Aside from a free Regular Yum Hamburger certificate, customers were automatically qualified to join the raffle promo, once all of the puzzle cards were completed.

The awarding was held at the Jollibee Regional Office in Cebu, with Jollibee officials Leo Maglasang, Trisha Raffinan, Ana Aluyen, and Albert Tan.

To our jolly millionaire Ellen, many *Bee Happy* returns to you!

Visayas' artistic bets for Kapayapaan, Kaya Mong Ilarawan, Kid! Painting Contest

Cebu played host to the regional finals of *Kapayapaan, Kaya Mong Ilarawan, Kid!* painting contest.

A total of 300 entries were received from all over Cebu, Bohol and Negros Oriental. Judging was held at the SM City Cebu where all entries will be on display 'till September 9, 2002.

Jollibee and Hetty welcome participants and guests at the regional finals of *Kapayapaan, Kaya Mong Ilarawan, Kid!* painting contest at the SM Cebu.

Proclaimed winners were Earl Alfonse Alegado. Michael Dakon, Jay Marie Garcia, Luke Adrian Maloloy-on, Bal Vincent Vergara and Regie Villano. They will compete in the National semifinals on September 18, 2002 at the Jollibee Green Meadows branch in Libis, Quezon City.

The *Kapayapaan, Kaya Mong Ilarawan, Kid!* painting contest is supported by the Department of Education (DepEd), Illustrador ng Kabataan (INK). PET Plans, Goodwill Bookstore, with Cebu Pacific as the contest's official carrier.

Congratulations to all the regional winners. See you at the finals!

A colorful and fun day at Jollibee-Antipolo bayan

The Superkids Club of Jollibee-Antipolo Bayan recently had a day of colorful fun and games.

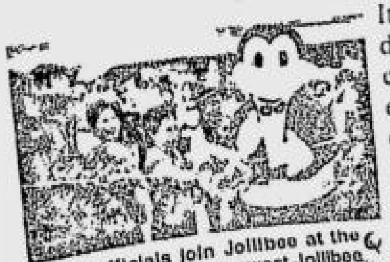
Jollibee awards a certificate to a Superkids Club member.

The kids had a blast, painting ceramic figurines of their favorite Jollibee mascots in different colors and shades. These little artisans also played parlor games together with Jollibee and the crew. Afterwards, the kids were treated to their favorite Jollibee Spaghetti Special.

Don't miss out on other exciting Superkids Club activities only from Jollibee. *Bee Happy!*

A perfect 10 in Jollibee Pangasinan

The *Bee Happy* spirit is alive and well in Pangasinan, as the newly opened Jollibee branch in San Carlos City brings the number of Jollibee stores from all over the province to a perfect 10.



Town officials join Jollibee at the ribbon cutting of the newest Jollibee branch in Pangasinan.

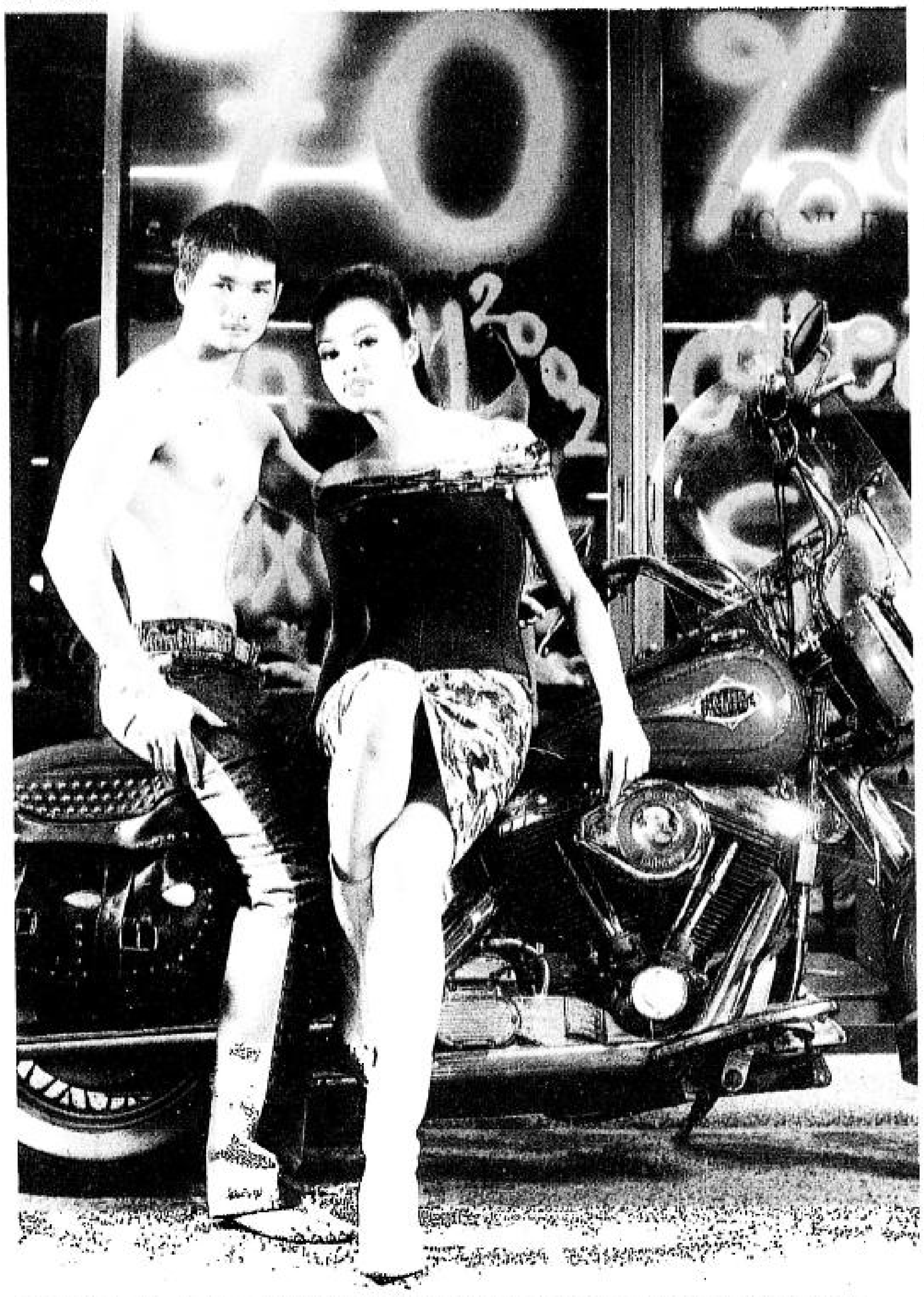
It was a whole day of fun-filled celebrations As early as 4 am, excited residents from nearby areas flocked to the new Jollibee store, hoping to be one of its first 100 customers. In the afternoon, marching bands and a mini parade filled the streets, heralding the store's big opening.

This newest Jollibee store in the land of *Pangalatok*, signifies Jollibee's continued commitment and support for the progress and development of the province of Pangasinan.

Looking forward to more *Bee Happy* stores in the future!

For feedback, comments, or suggestions, please write to
Jollibee Journal
c/o The Marketing Division,
Jollibee Plaza, Emerald Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City, Philippines
journal@jollibee.com.ph

bee happy
Langhap-Sarap sa Jollibee



ON KUKU: Liu-Jo dress (P3,390 less 50 percent), Terzoatto corset (P1,590 less 50 percent) and Awa North boots (P5,590 less 30 percent). On Kenji: Online snakeskin belt (P1,290 less 30 percent) and Gazzarrini denim two-toned jeans (P3,390 less 30 percent)

Linea Italia's Freddy Panicucci wants nothing less than a dash of Milan fashion in every urban center in the archipelago

ON KUKU: Moschino red lace dress (P7,590 less 30 percent), Emmegi red and black laced-up mules (P2,390 less 30 percent). On Kenji: Pal Zileri white jacket and pants (P16,990 less 30 percent), Trexx sneakers, Pinko flower pin (P890 less 30 percent)

KUKU Trinidad slips into a Gianfranco Ferre red and black halter top (P6,890 less 30 percent), Liu-Jo red jeans (P3,890 less 50 percent) Awa North boots (P5,590 less 30 percent) and Pinko belt (P1,590 less 30 percent).

Fashion don gets bolder

Text by Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Jovel Lorenzo

BUSINESSMAN Freddy Panicucci has always been a rebel with a cause. And his unusual ways never fail to draw people's attention—from his long ponytail to his preferred mode of getting around the city, a flashy Harley Davidson.

Panicucci's independent streak extends to his business empire, the Linea Italia Group, which is celebrating its 20th year this pre-Christmas season.

From Linea's first outlet at the now-defunct Angela Arcade, the country's largest and exclusive distributor of several top Italian fashion brands has grown to 22 branches nationwide, including Corso Marconi in Makati, the first warehouse of its kind in the country to cater to fashionistas.

"We're now selling close to 500,000 pieces of clothes and shoes a year," he says. "That may seem like a big number, but with a population of 80 million, we're not even touching one percent of the entire market."

Give him time. After opening his first store in Cebu in 1994, Panicucci trained his sights on two other key cities in the south. On top of its six branches in Cebu, Linea recently opened a branch in Bacolod and Davao.

"One of my dreams is to establish a bigger presence in the provinces," says Panicucci, who's eyeing Tacloban, Leyte. "I want our clothes to be within the reach of more Filipinos. We'll go wherever there's an airport."

FREDDY FOR THE WORLD. Panicucci dreams of turning the Philippines into the fashion capital of Asia through affordable but stylish RTW clothes.

Unbelievable

What continues to baffle customers and competitors alike is how the Filipino-Italian Panicucci is able to sell such top Italian brands as Versace, Dolce & Gabbana, Gianfranco Ferre and Max Mara at unbelievably low prices.

"Linea Italia is unique in the world," he beams with pride. "Not even in Italy can you find all these brands in one roof. If I want to turn the Philippines into the fashion capital of Asia, I have to provide Filipinos with a wider selection of affordable clothes." It hasn't always been this way.

After finishing his studies in Italy, Panicucci returned to the country in the late '70s. He landed his first job as a clerk in Far East Bank. His facility in Italian, a language he once had to struggle to learn amid taunts from classmates, became his ticket to the fashion business.

Despite dire predictions from well-meaning friends and relatives, he pooled all his savings and used his Italian connections to establish the first Linea outlet in 1982—not because of some selfless or nationalistic reasons, he admits.

Seizing the chance

The budding businessman simply seized the chance to provide high-end, ready-to-wear clothes from Italy to a well-heeled market hungry for them. "The rich and the fashion-conscious had to fly to Hong Kong, the nearest city abroad where a wide range of signature brands were available," he says. Unmindful of what lay ahead of him, Panicucci plodded on until Linea experienced its first political crisis: the Aquino assassination in 1983.

Apart from his boundless optimism and marketing savvy (he hires statuesque salesladies and sponsors one-peso concerts), Panicucci's staying power also stems from his ability to foresee and make sense out of disparate trends. And we're not referring to hemlines and silhouettes.

Ten years after surviving the first Edsa and a year before the Asian financial crisis nearly crippled the region's economy, he established Linea's first warehouse outlet as an initial response to changes affecting the global RTW market.

For the longest time, Linea had been catering to a handful of big spenders whose numbers continued to dwindle with the economy's misfortunes. Panicucci felt the time was ripe to introduce some changes.

Going for volume

It was either he sell Italian-made clothes at affordable prices or risk being overwhelmed by cheaper but inferior knockoffs from such countries as China. To do the former, however, he had to convince his Italian partners that a substantial market existed in the Philippines to justify such drastic price cuts. That was when Corso Marconi's initial success proved useful.

"They saw for themselves how big the Philippine market was and how hungry and adventurous Filipinos were for Italian fashion," he says. "We have the volume other more affluent countries such as Korea and Hong Kong don't have."

Meanwhile, Linea's reputation for selling clothes at giveaway prices has gone beyond Philippine shores. Not a few tourists, notably Koreans, Japanese and Taiwanese, have now added a shopping trip to Linea as part of their itinerary when visiting the Philippines.

"Korean importers used to laugh at us because of the small volume of clothes we bought from the Italians," says Panicucci. "Because of their depressed economy, Korean shoppers are now trooping to the Philippines."

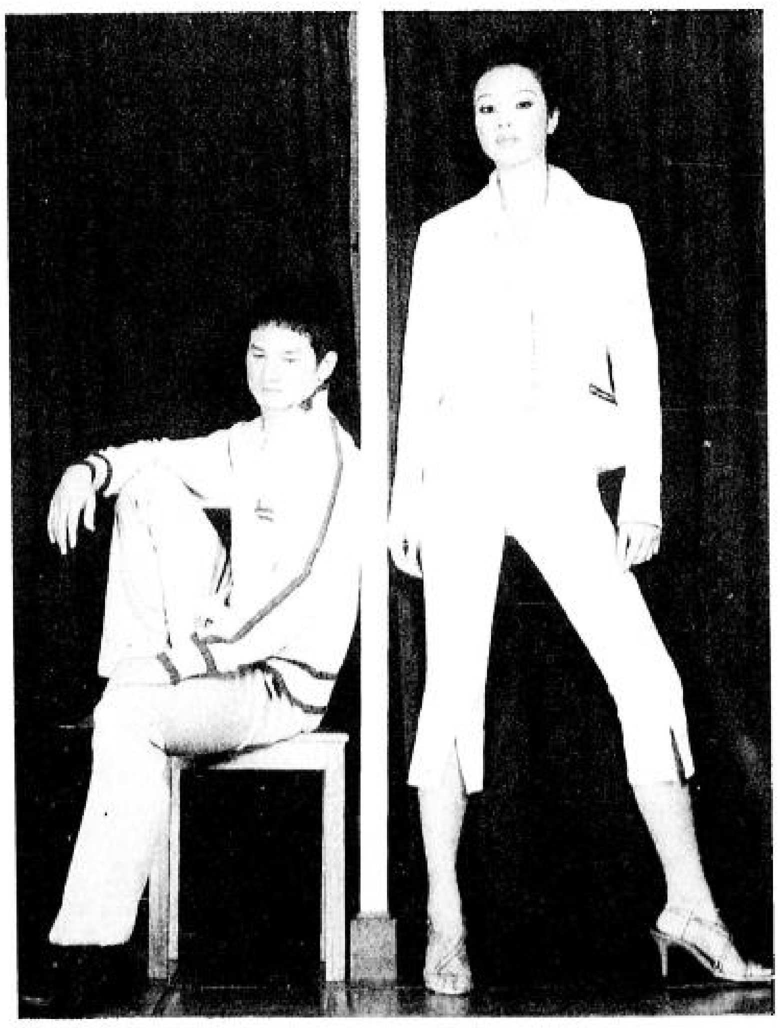
Both Panicucci and his Italian partners have ended up winners. Apart from the volume they derive from catering to a growing Philippine market, the Italians now have a more accurate gauge, through fashion-conscious Filipinos, as to what items will sell well in other markets.

Contrary to popular impression, says Panicucci, the country is no dumping ground for Italian rejects.

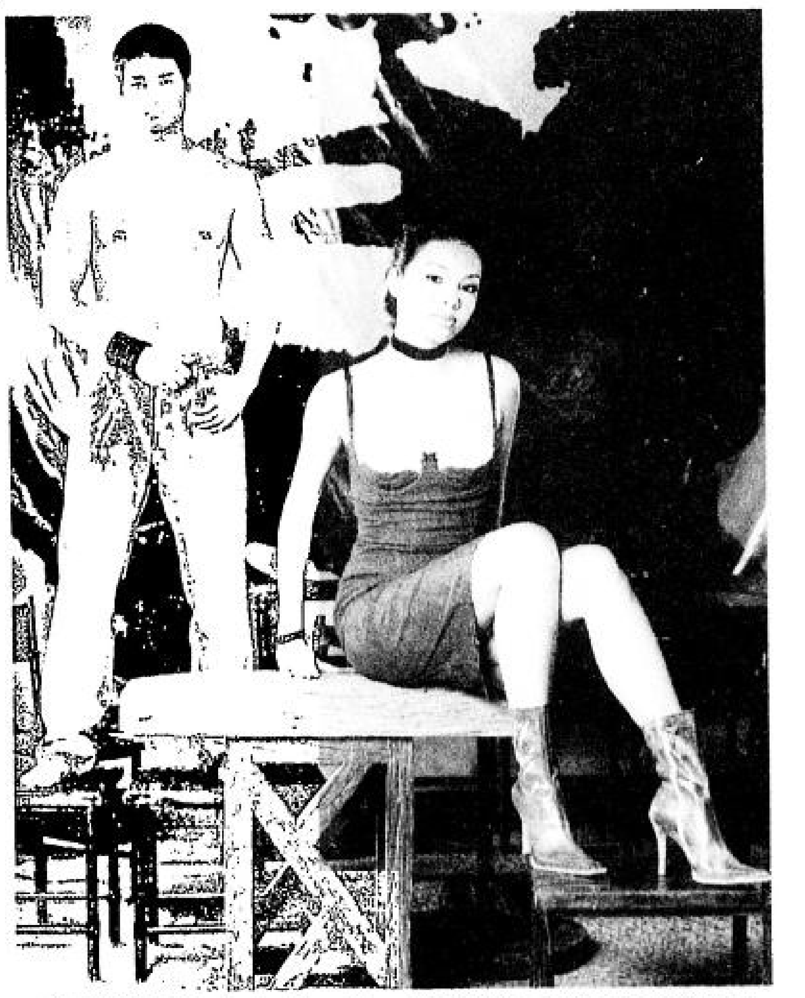
"Filipinos are, by nature, fashion-buffs," he reasons. "Tough times have inspired them to become more resourceful in their search for cheaper but quality clothes. Being rich is different from looking rich. In the end, people's innate taste will eventually dictate what they're going to wear."

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

ON KUKU: Max Mara caftan (P15,990 less 30 percent), beige Duca del borge boots (P5,590 [illegible]). On Ke[illegible] animal print shirt (P1,790 less 30 percent), [illegible]nline s[illegible] belt, Gazzarini black denim pants (P3,590 less 30 percent), Crash & Crash black leather shoes (P2,890 less 30 percent)



ON KUKU: Gianfranco Ferre jacket (P16,990 less 30 percent), Giangranco F[illegible] [illegible]pri pants (P6,590 less 30 percent), Gianfranco Ferre striped shirt (P9,890 less 30 percent), Emmegi blue sandals (P1,990 less 30 percent). On Kenji: Sonny Bono zippered cardigan (P2,590 less 70 percent), Moschino striped trousers (P4,990 less 30 percent) and Free Mod sneakers (P3,290 less 30 percent)



ON KUKU: D&G denim lace dress (P8,990 less 30 percent), blue Duca del Borge boots (P5,590 less 30 percent). On Kenji: Gigli denims (P8,590 less 30 percent)

CLOTHES: LINEA ITALIA
MODELS: KUKU TRINIDAD AND KENJI MARQUEZ
STYLING: ANGELO VILLANUEVA
HAIR AND MAKEUP: TOTO BAGAMASBAD
LOCATION: CORSO MARCONI STOCKHOUSE, MAKATI

Understanding 'jologs' and today's kids

By Jose Javier Reyes
Contributor

I TRY very, very hard to keep up and understand the kids who seem to be everywhere and yet going nowhere.

In streets and malls, I cringe at the sight of peroxide victims, sporting clothes five sizes too large for them, topped with knitted wool caps despite our tropical weather and the only chance for snow is if an asteroid hits us and the planet makes a 180-degree turn. I shudder at the image of frail young girls, with bosoms not fully developed but forced into near-indecent exposure with their belly buttons in full display and made up to look like deflated Cabbage Patch dolls with enough body piercing. I marvel at tattoos flashed like badges of undetermined rebellion belying any ideas that only criminals in claustrophobic penitentiaries allow doodles on their skins.

Of course, I still watch music videos—trying to figure out if Britney Spears' ample assets are a marvel of genealogy or technology and to guess the mindset of the writhing, sweating and dancing creatures. I agree, boy bands can be cute but deadly with their saccharine music and perfect blending of voices. But after a while, they do not only all sound alike but also look alike. I still think Vanessa Carlton is a 21st century reincarnation of Carole King minus the depth of poetic possibilities since I think the writer of "Tapestry" would not have come up with an interpretation of the Rolling Stones' "Paint it Black."

For a very short time, I tried to appreciate rap music—plunging into Eminem's world or even Carlos Agassi's. I would sit somewhat stupefied or feeling stupid, unable to grasp what the artist was trying to convey, or even simply trying to figure out what he is saying.

But this is the kids' music, their world. And if I were to act like a media practitioner (or just a normal person trying to comprehend what is happening in the world) then I should be able to get into the hearts and minds of that substantial chunk of the world population. Kids constitute a large part of film and television audiences; their choices and issues are important.

Still it is quite hard to ride the tide of the "Magpakatotoo Ka" Generation, with its Rave parties, Ministry of Sound events, *ukay-ukay* fashion and God-knows-what-it-pops-snorts-smokes when I still hum "Come Saturday Morning" by the Sandpipers. I felt I was undergoing vicious karma for telling Boboy Garrovillo once that there should be a point when the Apo should stop singing "Anna" and "Ewan" unless they were doing a retrospective of their oldies but goldies.

To this day, I still have to figure out what the term "*jolog*" really means. I spoke with Pia Magalona in a movie set and she said the term had been around for the longest time—only becoming popular of late. I was on location at St. Benedict's College and asked some high school students to really define the term. They chorused "maximum *kabaduyan*." I asked my production designer, Jake de Asis (at 39 a true professional *bagets*, for he knows all the right places and has all the fashionable vices and devices to qualify to be either an immortal or a vampire), what the term meant and he blurted "the scum of the earth."

So I guess the movie that had the term for its title was not quite correct in calling the follies and foibles of young people as *jolog*-dom. Maybe it was mere artistic license. But when I asked a 21-year-old (whom I met in the weirdest *bagets* circumstances) if he was a *jolog* because he wore hip-hop pants, took pride in having the elastic band of his plaid boxer shorts showing above his pants' waistline, wore an inverted baseball cap over semi-*kal* hair, he vehemently replied, "*Hindi, ah!*" It seems that being a *jolog* is an insult, making someone the personification of a pathetic, trying-hard subspecies desperately wanting to be street smart but only succeeding in being urban stupid.

Speaking of the 21-year-old who would rather die than be called a *jolog*, our acquaintance was made in such a high-tech 21st' century scenario with SIM, pre-paid cards and novel ring tones. From out of the blue, I received a text message asking, "Can you be my textmate?" I doubled up in laughter as, at that precise moment, I was horizontal as a nurse applied a gooey green mentholated mudpack on my face in preparation for the extraction of dead skin cells and all forms of alien growth. Out of curiosity and with a dash of malice, I replied and so we bonded.

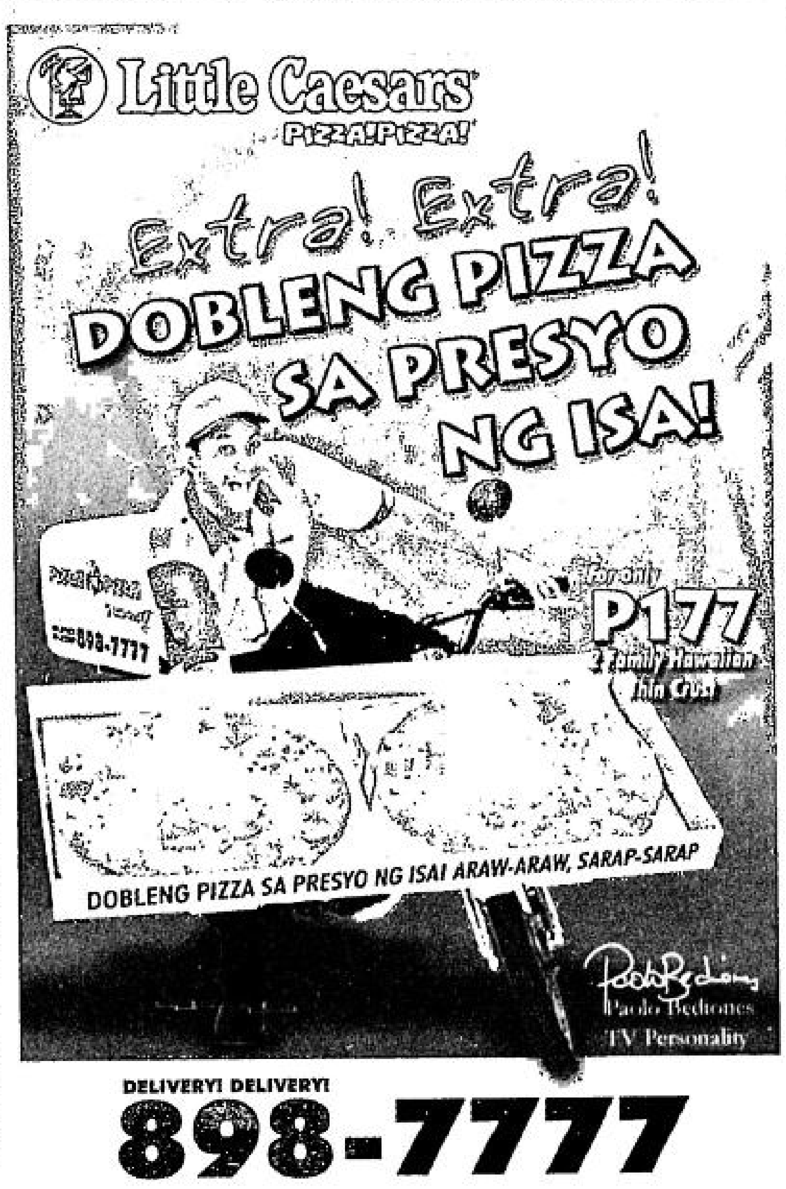
Of course, he was shocked when he found out that I was not the generic *kolehiyala* with a Powerpuff Girls key chain and smelling like a citrus fruit. He was even more shocked to find out how old I was ("Oh, wow... *Matanda ka pa sa* Daddy *ko!*") and who I was ("Oh, wow... Oh, wow!"). But after we got all his "Oh, wows!" out of the way, we started talking especially after my fingers began to hurt from the exchange of text messages. "*Gumigimik ka pa ba?*" he asked. I told him I was still at the prime of my life—and that I still danced (only in the privacy of my bedroom or under the influence of tequila) to the sounds of techno and electronica music on full blast. Oh, wow!

He started talking to me as if I were Yoda of Star Wars fame—small, shriveled and limping around a swampy terrain in a galaxy far, far away. He was quite tentative in asking me if in *my* time (which I translated as the early Martial Law years) we indulged in the goodies that made life just a bit more exciting if not experimental. That was when I laughed. I told him that the kids of the '70s were definitely more daring—we too sported our hair shoulder-length, popped/gulped/smoked/snorted/sniffed anything that caught our fancy, not to mention spicing up our brownies and spaghettis with something other than oregano. Although he has heard stories about those days of ultimate abandonment, he knew Wood-stock as a series of photos with a lot of long-haired young people frolicking in a gigantic pigpen. He could not believe that the generation of his parents were as daring and rebellious as he and his peers were now.

A thought flashed in my mind. Maybe there was no real generation gap. Decades come and go, and rebellion just assumes a variety of forms and context. My father used to have headaches when I played my 33-1/3 rpm albums of The Doors. My mother used to complain about the ear-shattering sounds of Earth, Wind and Fire or Santana. So I guess it was not weird for me to get migraine attacks listening to Korn.

Then he told me that his hair was semi-*kal*—a little longer than the buzz-cut to qualify as semi-*kalbo*. I told him I was also semi-*kal* but not because of any barber's scissors, but due to family "history."

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO



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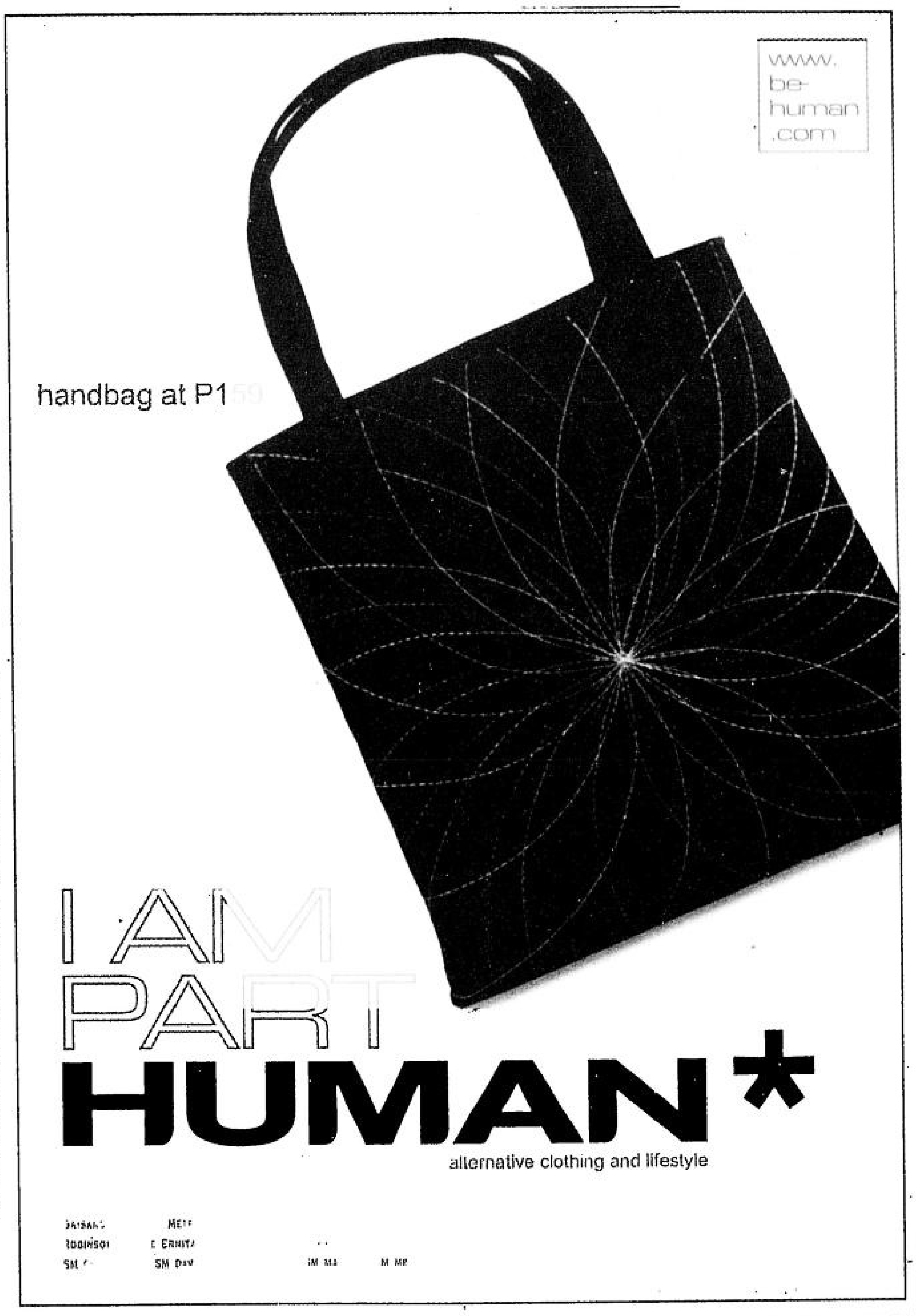

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Real People. True Stories.

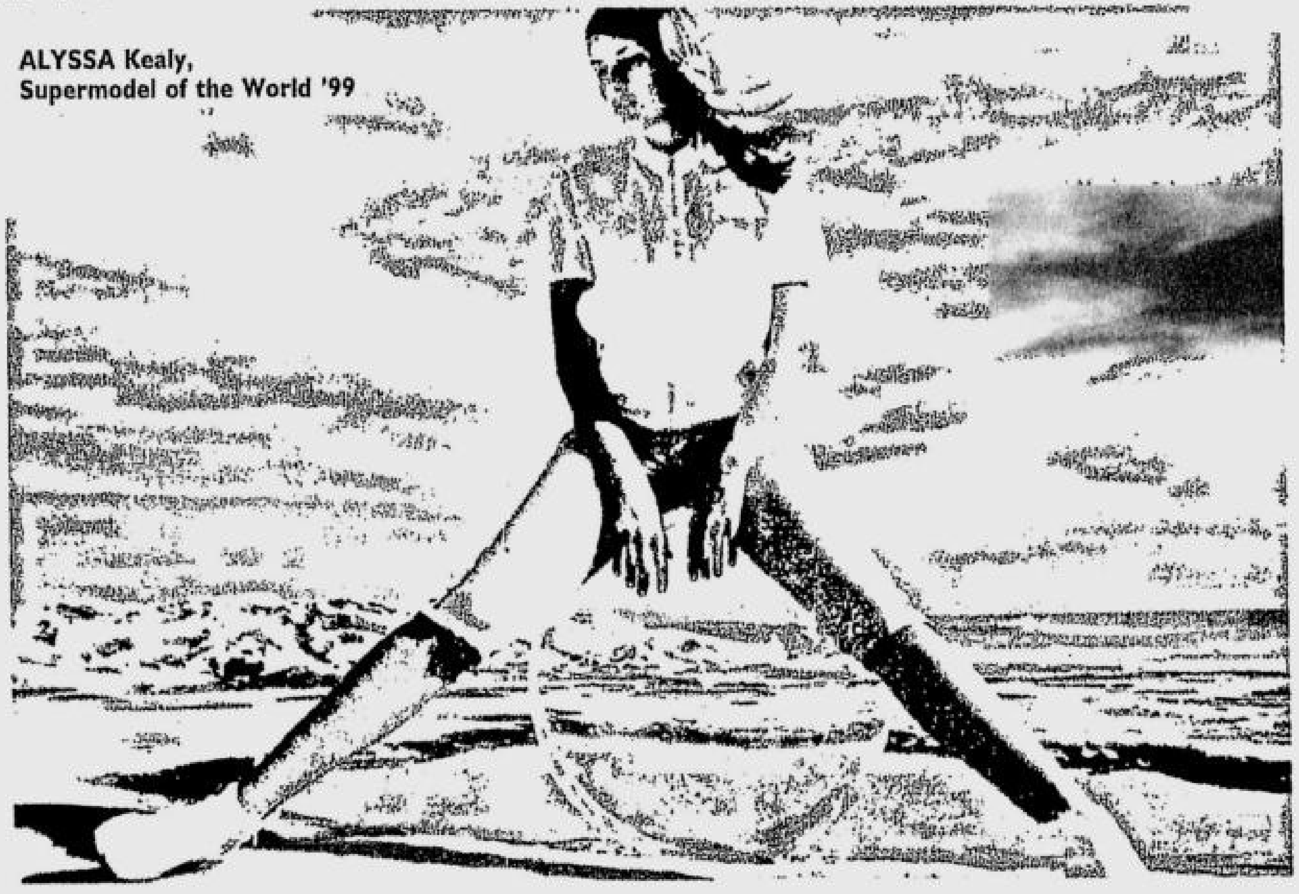
"Teenager? You must mean my daughters! With Imedeen, my skin's smooth even without make-up."

Joanna Valencia-de Jesus,
33, AVP for Finance, interior design student,
mother of two

Joanna de Jesus has the fresh face of a college girl -- plus a successful career and not one but two teenaged daughters! Yet you'd never guess it from her skin: "People can't believe I'm 33!" Thanks to Imedeen, Joanna's not only maintained her young skin -- she's even *improved* it: "I wasn't born with perfect skin. I had sunspots and tiny veins, but they're almost gone; now I don't even need foundation!" Only Imedeen nourishes skin from deep within -- for a smooth, firm, defiantly youthful complexion *without* time consuming rituals. So when her daughters' friends or her own classmates are amazed at her age, Joanna just smiles and says "Believe it -- and believe Imedeen." Imedeen. The Skin Care Tablet.

Ultrasound images of the skin structure: First photo shows photodamaged dermis; second photo shows denser structure which implies better support and ability to hold moisture.

Clinically Proven
IMEDEEN
The Skin Care Tablet



ALYSSA Kealy,
Supermodel of the World '99

Do you want to be a supermodel?

THE FORD Models' Supermodel of the World competition is being launched this month in Manila. The Philippine competition is part of a global search for fresh faces in over 45 countries being undertaken by Ford Models, the oldest and most influential modeling agency in the world.

In the Philippines, Ford Models is represented by Runway Productions and Cal-Carries International Models Phils., which will conduct regional searches in Luzon (Oct. 5), Manila (Oct. 6), Cebu (Oct. 12) and Davao (Oct. 13). From among the regional contestants, one supermodel will be chosen on Oct. 29 at the Westin Philippine Plaza. She will compete with other country winners in the finals in the Dominican Republic in December.

Among the recent Supermodel of the World winners whose careers are gaining momentum is Brazilian Vanessa Schrank de Assis (Supermodel of the World 2000 first runner-up), who was recently Glamour magazine's cover girl and Ralph Lauren's latest face for its new Blue label.

Meanwhile, Australian Alyssa Kealy, who bested 50 candidates to win the title of Supermodel of the World '99 in Beijing, China, can now be seen on the pages of Elle magazine.

Runway Productions' producer and director Joey A. Espino describes a supermodel as one with what Eileen Ford calls the "X Factor," an extraordinary quality that can't be defined. It is a quality that makes a woman "worthy of a second look" in comparison to one with just a beautiful face.

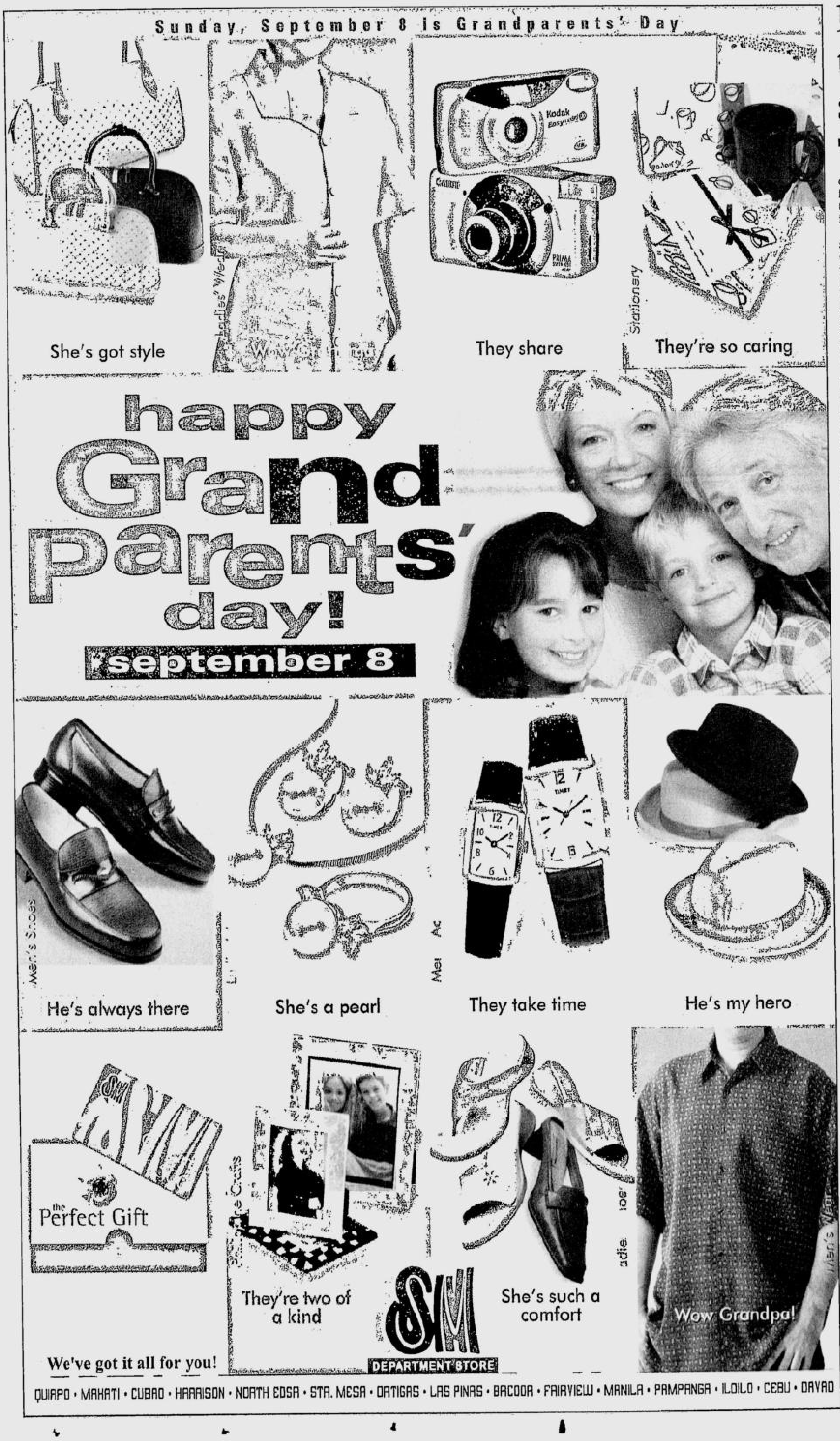
"A supermodel puts a face on a super brand," Espino explains.

Espino says that winners of the Philippine competition such as Nina Naval, Verns Buckley, Tutay Maristela, Joan de Mesa and Marjay Ramirez have endorsed super brands at one time or another, appeared on the covers of regional and local magazines and have since modeled in Singapore, Hong Kong and Australia, among other fashion capitals.

Espino is confident that a Filipina will one day win the Supermodel of the World title and the $250,000 modeling contract from Ford that comes with it. Candidates must at least be 14 years of age. They must have a clear complexion, impressive bone structure and a positive attitude.

PATRICIA Velasquez rises from poverty in Venezuela to the fashion world in Paris to an acting career in Hollywood.

AILEEN and Jerry Ford



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Ladies' Wear
She's got style
They share
Stationery
They're so caring
happy Grandparents' day!
september 8
Men's Shoes
He's always there
She's a pearl
They take time
He's my hero
the Perfect Gift
They're two of a kind
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She's such a comfort
Men's Wear
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Story on page D4

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Story on page D8

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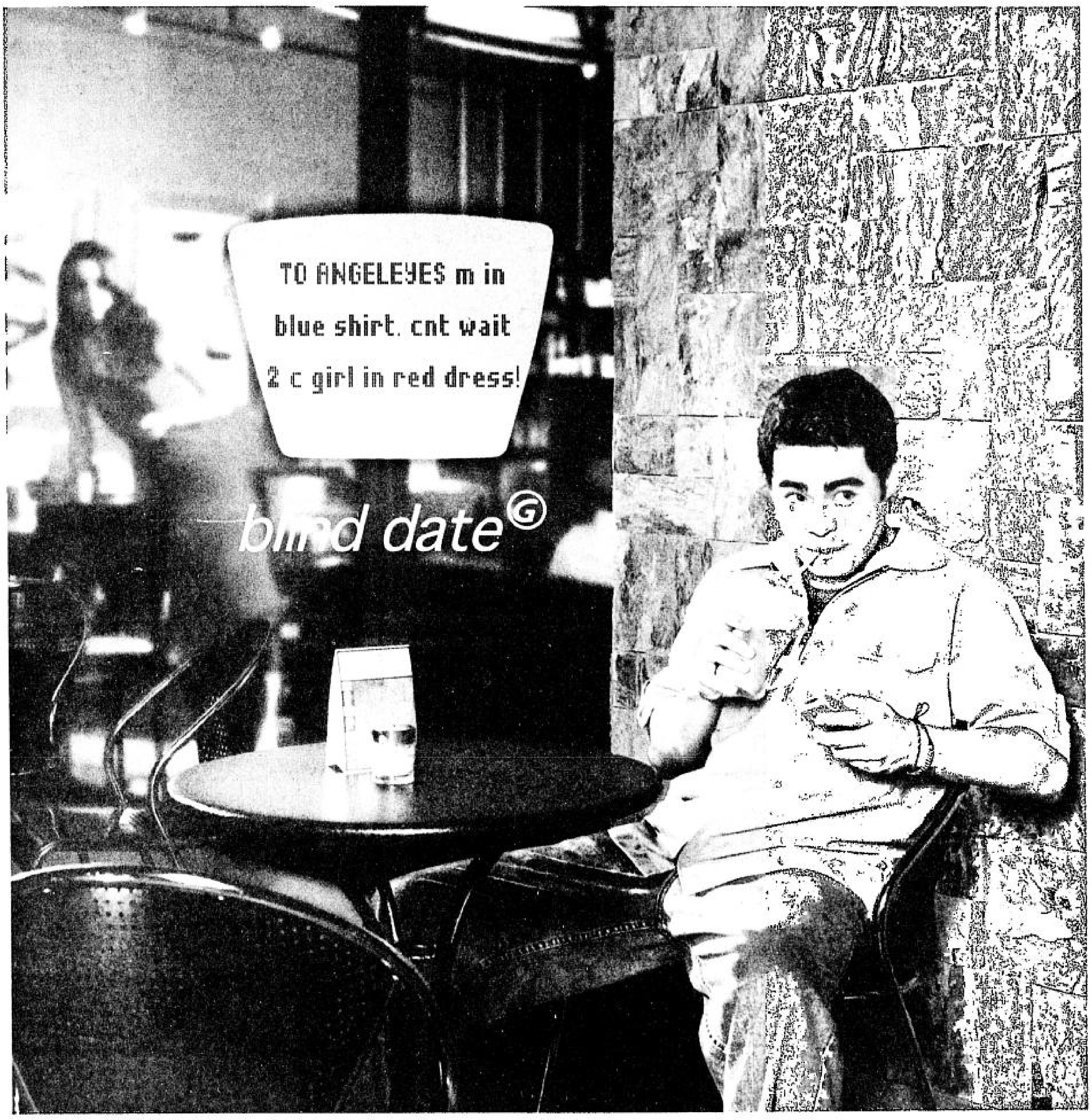

TO ANGELEYES m in
blue shirt. cnt wait
2 c girl in red dress!

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Reply to the last person who sent a message	r <message>	r m in blue shirt
See list of people in a chat room	list <room>	list dating
Search for a chatter	search <gender> <age>	search F 18
Get help	help	help
Quit from chatting room	quit	quit

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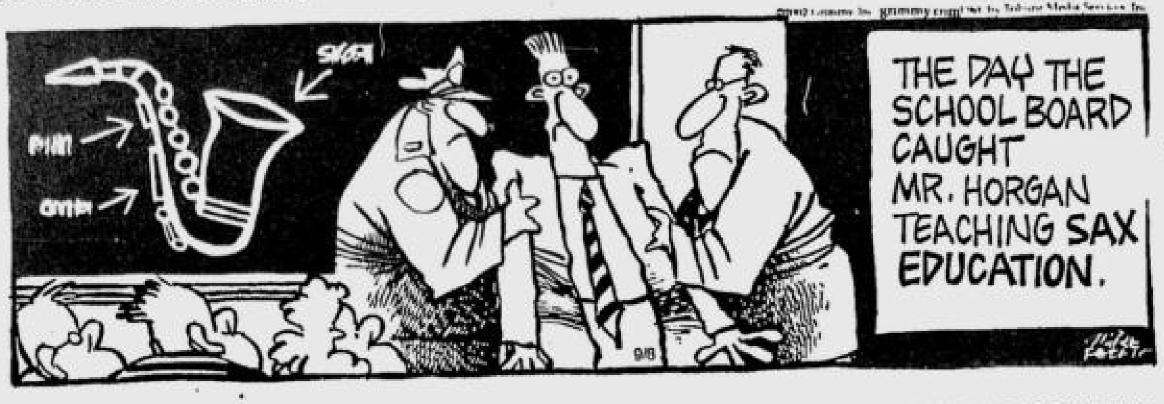
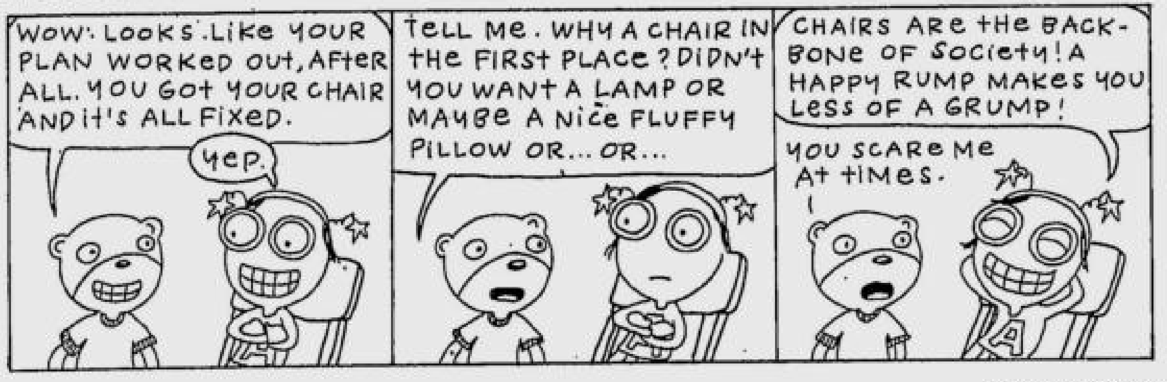
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


SIGH
PHH
OHH
THE DAY THE SCHOOL BOARD CAUGHT MR. HORGAN TEACHING SAX EDUCATION.
9/8

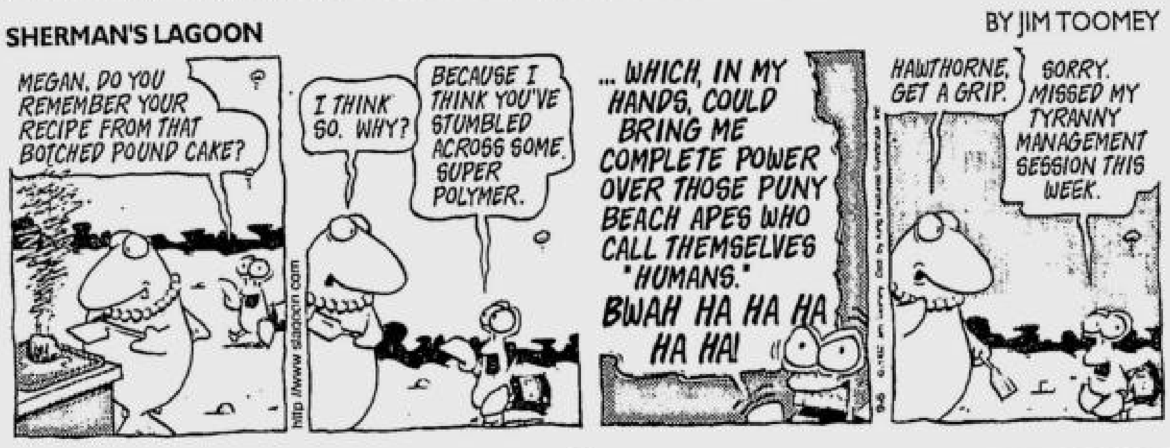
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


WOW. LOOKS LIKE YOUR PLAN WORKED OUT, AFTER ALL. YOU GOT YOUR CHAIR AND IT'S ALL FIXED.
YEP.
TELL ME. WHY A CHAIR IN THE FIRST PLACE? DIDN'T YOU WANT A LAMP OR MAYBE A NICE FLUFFY PILLOW OR... OR...
CHAIRS ARE THE BACKBONE OF SOCIETY! A HAPPY RUMP MAKES YOU LESS OF A GRUMP!
YOU SCARE ME AT TIMES.

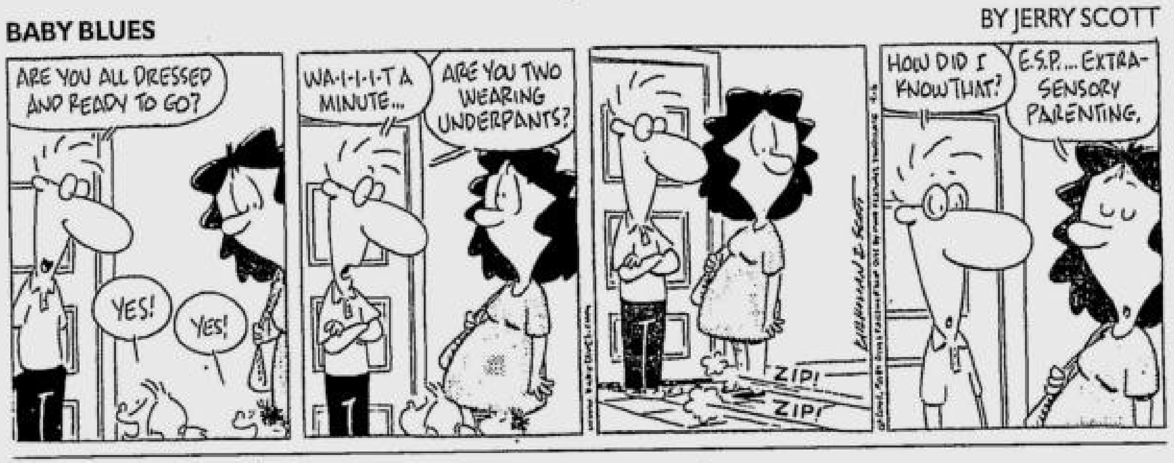
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


MEGAN, DO YOU REMEMBER YOUR RECIPE FROM THAT BOTCHED POUND CAKE?
I THINK SO. WHY?
BECAUSE I THINK YOU'VE STUMBLED ACROSS SOME SUPER POLYMER.
... WHICH, IN MY HANDS, COULD BRING ME COMPLETE POWER OVER THOSE PUNY BEACH APES WHO CALL THEMSELVES "HUMANS." BWAH HA HA HA HA HA!
HAWTHORNE, GET A GRIP.
SORRY. MISSED MY TYRANNY MANAGEMENT SESSION THIS WEEK.
http://www.slagoon.com

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


ARE YOU ALL DRESSED AND READY TO GO?
YES!
YES!
WA-I-I-I-T A MINUTE...
ARE YOU TWO WEARING UNDERPANTS?
ZIP!
ZIP!
HOW DID I KNOW THAT?
E.S.P.... EXTRA-SENSORY PARENTING.

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Swoosie Kurtz, Jane Curtin, Billy Rose

Happy Birthday: You must be willing to do what's best for yourself this year. Don't put up with people who stand in your way or you'll feel let down. Prepare yourself for change and set your priorities straight. Rely on yourself and you'll be in a far better position to help others later. Your numbers are 9, 14, 22, 25, 36, 45

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You're going to get a lot of attention at social gatherings today. You'll definitely be the life of the party. However, the person you're most attracted to may need a little probing.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): It's likely to be an upsetting day if you are expecting others to do things for you. You're the only one who can make yourself feel better. Have fun and do the things you enjoy the most.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): It's time to be honest with yourself. Even if the truth hurts, it's better to deal with it now than to let things progress. Observing the situation longer will be tiresome.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Focus on friends, doing things you enjoy and taking short trips. If you put in extra hours, you may end up meeting someone who will become important to you.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Your dynamism will beckon new friends and lovers. Be careful not to exaggerate too much or you may upset someone who is already close to you. If you are willing to take a small risk, you may even make some money.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You will be upset over the cost of a repair today. Unnecessary spending is evident. Don't let anyone convince you that you need something that really isn't necessary.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You can't expect to keep someone happy if you curtail his freedom. You will be in a good frame of mind to get into self-improvement projects. The results you get will make you glad that you did.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Get involved in something that will make you feel good about yourself. The new people you meet will be far more accommodating than some of those you have known for some time.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't take anything for granted at work. Know that you won't get something for nothing today. The chance that someone may talk behind your back should be reason enough to keep your secrets to yourself.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Financial gains are apparent if you're willing to take a risk. A residential move may be necessary, but in the long run will do you a world of good. An adventure is just around the corner.

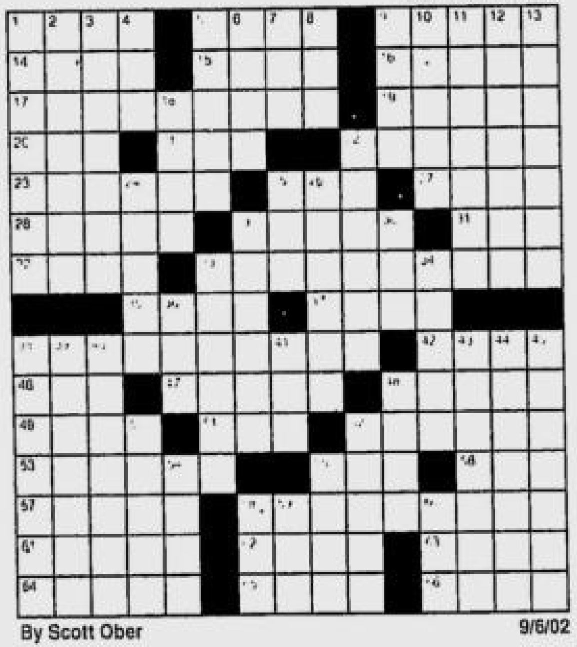
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You can meet potential new mates while traveling or attending an event. Your interest in foreign cultures will expand. You should get involved in community events.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Attractions to clients will be hard to resist. Use your head and be careful not to endanger your professional position for the sake of a passionate affair.

Birthday Baby: You will be practical and caring. You will use your charm to get yourself out of tight spots. You will be responsive and supportive and you'll attract lots of friends.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Scott Ober
Carmel, IN

9/6/02

ACROSS
1 Key blunder
5 Used leeches
9 Track events
14 Pay attention to
15 Easter bloomer
16 Cancel, as a launch
17 Channel between Oahu and Molokai?
19 _ incognita
20 Letter after phi
21 Econ. indicator
22 Of the stars
23 Recoiled
25 PC key
27 Web location
28 Roy's Dale
29 Shipping box
31 Roman Pluto
32 Hindu princess
33 Treaty in a trunk?
35 Half-goat man
37 Slaughter in Cooperstown
38 Directors with time on their hands?
42 "Nine Heavens" poet Khosrow
46 Park in NYC?
47 Flexible Flyers
48 Grassy plain
49 Guns it in neutral
51 Bachelor's last words
52 Apes
53 Hot and humid
55 Sailor's assent
56 One of the Tweedles
57 DeGeneres sitcom
58 Cheap perfume?
61 Torn apart
62 Solemn vow
63 Part of VMI
64 Planted items
65 Membership fees
66 Out of port, but not wine

DOWN
1 More dense
2 Judaic school
3 Big-billed bird
4 Pindar poem
5 Hunter's hideaway
6 Speak like Sylvester
7 Cornering pipe length
8 Turn red, maybe
9 Rodent pests
10 Helps a hood
11 Bullring
12 Hit-or-miss
13 Most trite
18 Has a birthday
22 Be there
24 Stiletto or dagger
25 Circle section
26 NBA team
29 Went by dugout
30 Old name of Tokyo
33 Open to all
34 One of David's songs
36 Spots on TV
38 Trades without cash
39 Rest upon
40 Spin
41 Fuss
43 Misses
44 Infuriate
45 Key to Egyptian hieroglyphics
48 Tells it like it isn't
50 Swiftness
52 Legends
54 Travel stops
55 Poker pot starter
58 $-due mail
59 __ de cologne
60 Cloak-and-dagger grp.

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

K	A	T	E	■	R	A	J	A	H	■	C	L	O	Y
E	V	I	L	■	E	L	O	P	E	■	L	O	B	E
P	I	C	K	U	P	T	H	E	P	I	E	C	E	S
I	D	S	■	S	O	O	N	■	■	C	A	U	S	E
■	■	■	T	E	S	S	■	T	S	E	T	S	E	S
P	A	R	A	D	E	■	A	R	I	A	S	■	■	■
I	D	O	L	■	■	S	U	I	N	G	■	U	P	A
P	A	T	C	H	I	T	T	O	G	E	T	H	E	R
E	M	S	■	A	D	I	O	S	■	■	H	I	C	K
■	■	■	T	I	L	L	S	■	T	R	U	C	K	S
R	E	T	I	R	E	E	■	T	O	A	D	■	■	■
E	L	A	T	E	■	■	D	I	M	S	■	H	O	E
B	U	I	L	D	U	P	O	N	T	H	E	O	L	D
E	D	G	E	■	P	I	N	T	O	■	G	O	L	D
L	E	A	D	■	S	P	A	S	M	■	O	K	A	Y

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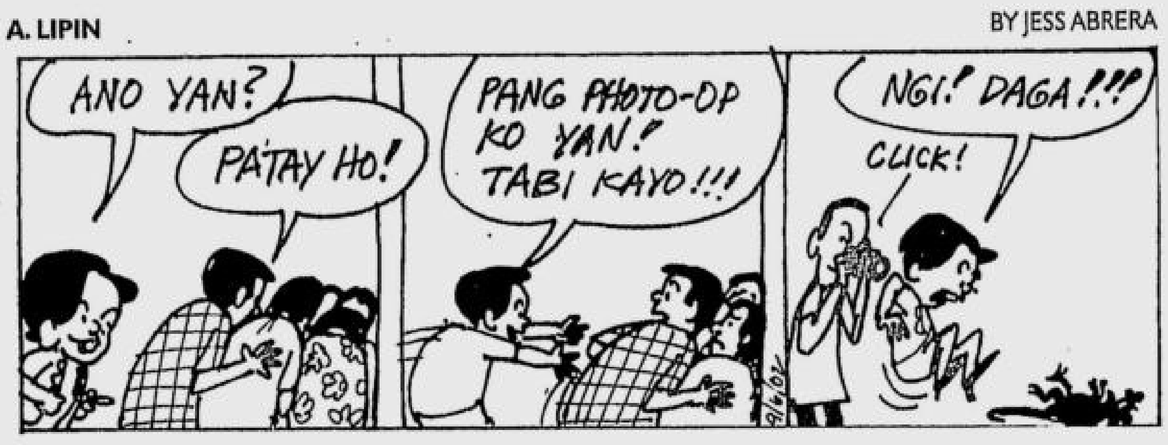
9/5/02

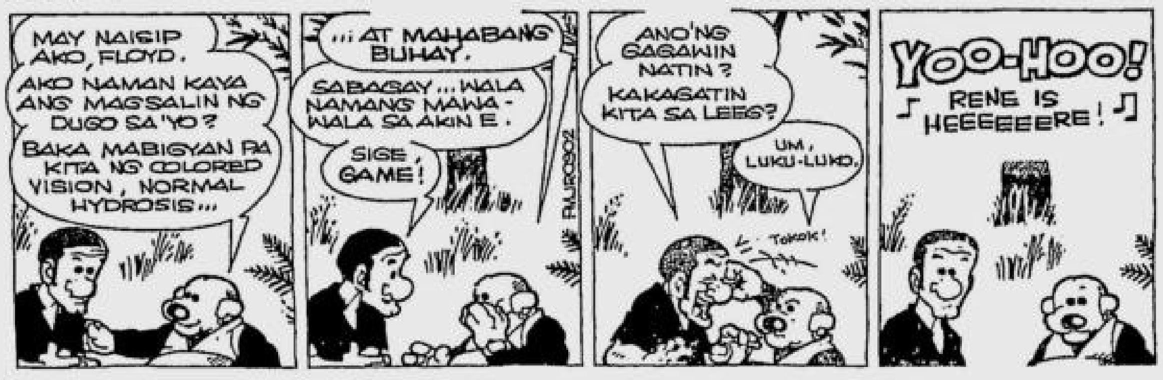
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


ANO YAN?
PATAY HO!
PANG PHOTO-OP KO YAN! TABI KAYO!!!
NGI! DAGA!!!
CLICK!
9/6/02

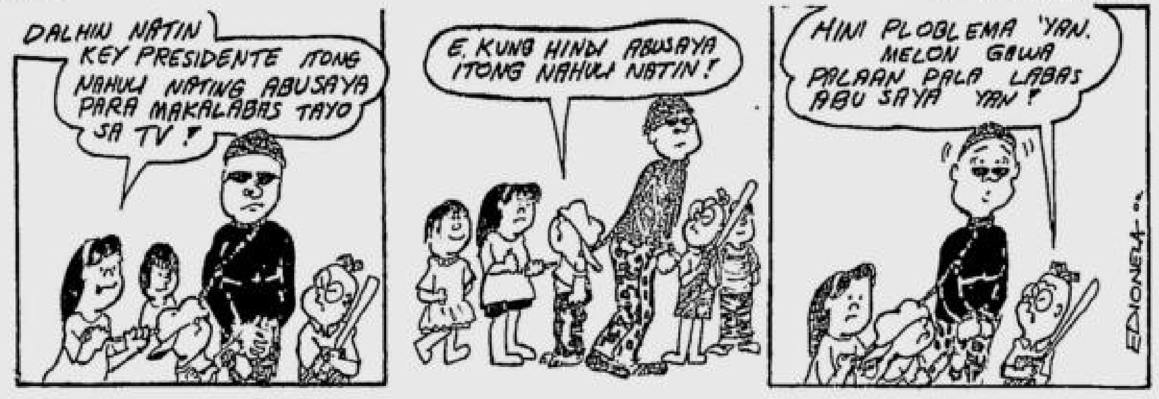
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


MAY NAISIP AKO, FLOYD.
AKO NAMAN KAYA ANG MAGSALIN NG DUGO SA'YO?
BAKA MABIGYAN PA KITA NG COLORED VISION, NORMAL HYDROSIS...
...AT MAHABANG BUHAY.
SABAGAY... WALA NAMANG MAWAWALA SA AKIN E.
SIGE, GAME!
ANO'NG GAGAWIN NATIN?
KAKAGATIN KITA SA LEEG?
UM, LUKU-LUKO.
TOKOK!
YOO-HOO!
RENE IS HEEEEEERE!

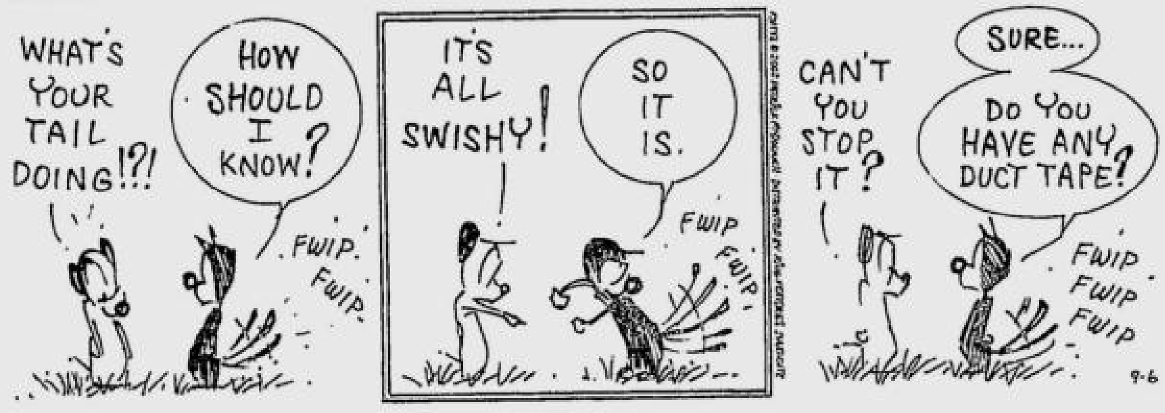
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


DALHIN NATIN KEY PRESIDENTE ITONG NAHULI NATING ABUSAYA PARA MAKALABAS TAYO SA TV!
E, KUNG HINDI ABUSAYA ITONG NAHULI NATIN!
HINI PLOBLEMA 'YAN. MELON GAWA PALAAN PALA LABAS ABU SAYA YAN!
EDIONELA

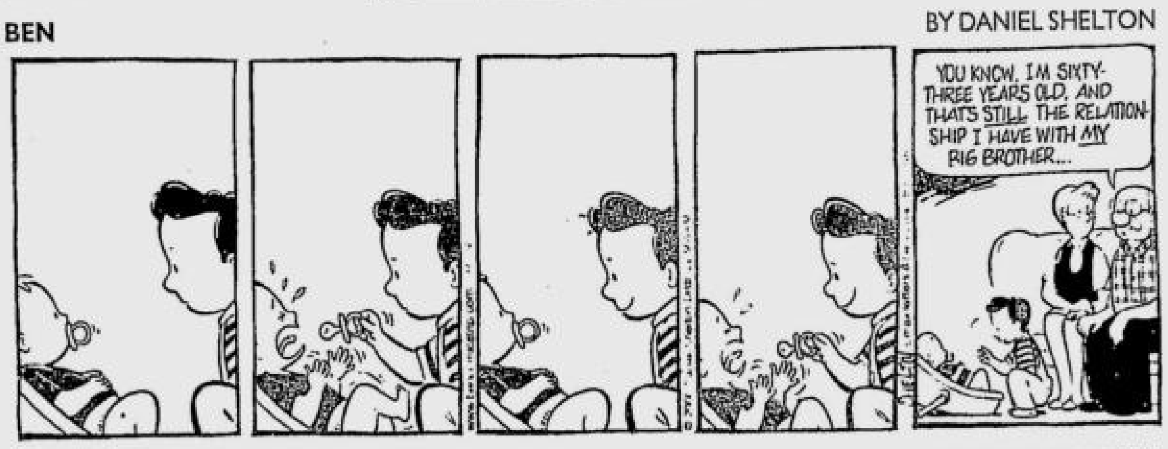
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


WHAT'S YOUR TAIL DOING!?!
HOW SHOULD I KNOW?
FWIP.
FWIP.
IT'S ALL SWISHY!
SO IT IS.
FWIP
FWIP
CAN'T YOU STOP IT?
SURE...
DO YOU HAVE ANY DUCT TAPE?
FWIP
FWIP
FWIP
9-6

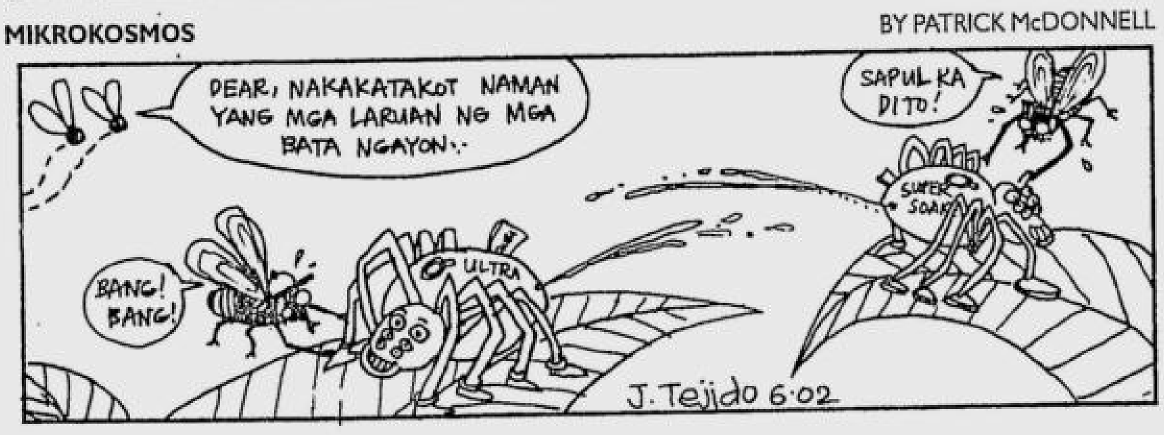
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


YOU KNOW, I'M SIXTY-THREE YEARS OLD, AND THAT'S STILL THE RELATIONSHIP I HAVE WITH MY BIG BROTHER...

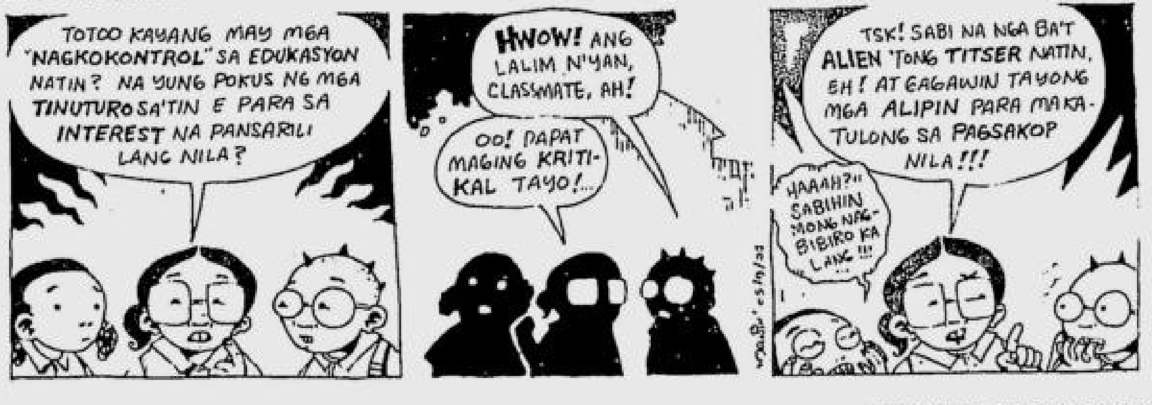
MIKROKOSMOS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


DEAR, NAKAKATAKOT NAMAN YANG MGA LARUAN NG MGA BATA NGAYON..
SAPUL KA DITO!
SUPER SOAK
ULTRA
BANG! BANG!
J. Tejido 6.02

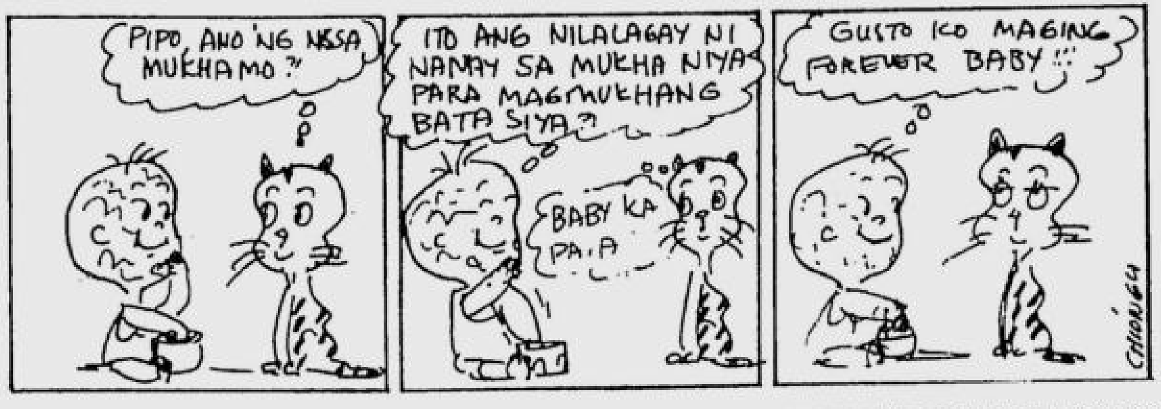
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


TOTOO KAYANG MAY MGA "NAGKOKONTROL" SA EDUKASYON NATIN? NA YUNG POKUS NG MGA TINUTURO SA'TIN E PARA SA INTEREST NA PANSARILI LANG NILA?
WOW! ANG LALIM N'YAN, CLASSMATE, AH!
OO! DAPAT MAGING KRITIKAL TAYO!..
TSK! SABI NA NGA BA'T ALIEN 'TONG TITSER NATIN, EH! AT GAGAWIN TAYONG MGA ALIPIN PARA MAKATULONG SA PAGSAKOP NILA!!!
HAAAH?!! SABIHIN MONG NAGBIBIRO KA LANG!!!

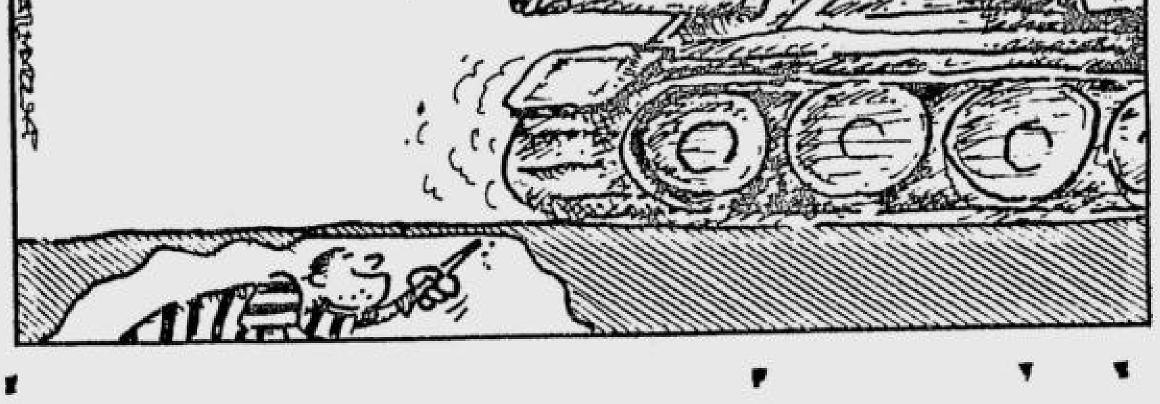
LOVEKNOTS

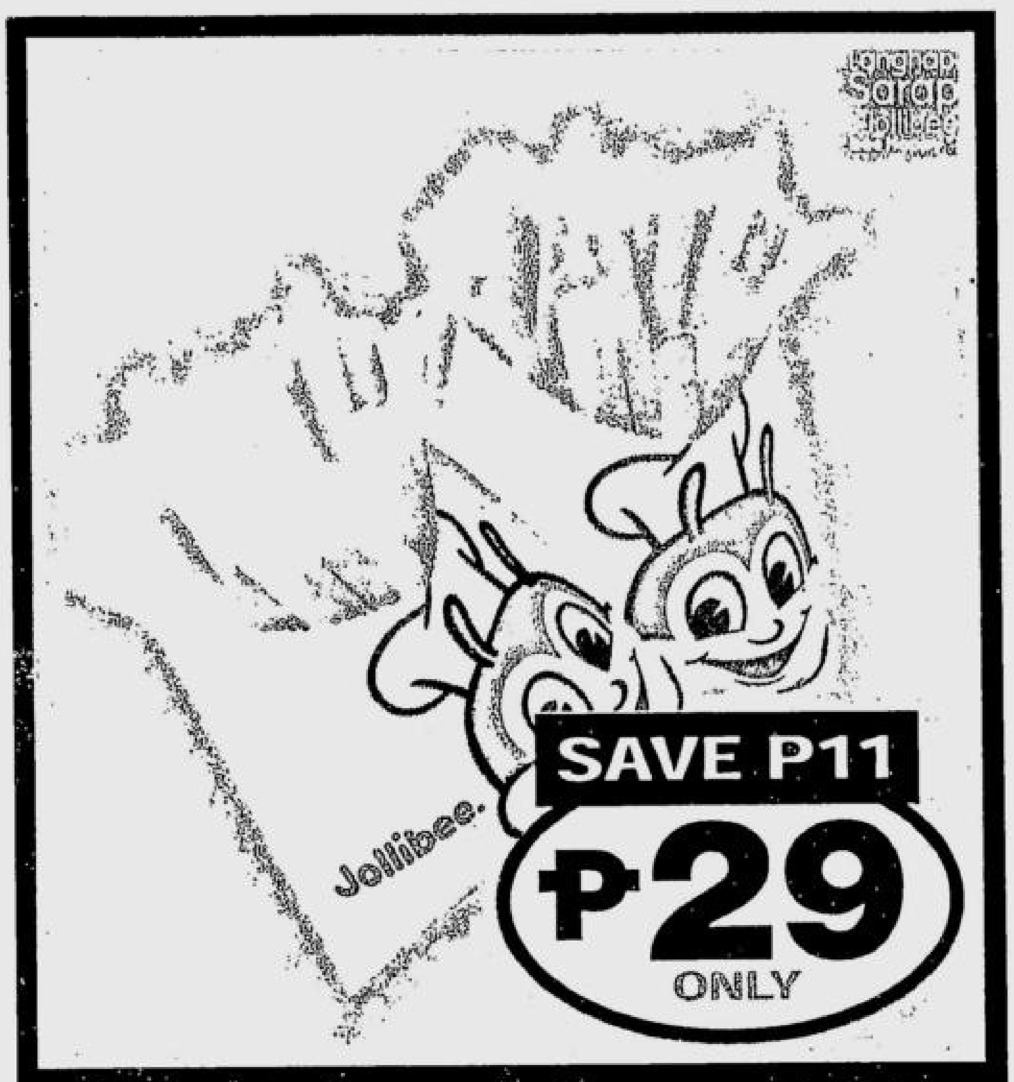
BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


PIPO, ANO 'NG NASA MUKHA MO?
ITO ANG NILALAGAY NI NANAY SA MUKHA NIYA PARA MAGMUKHANG BATA SIYA?
BABY KA PA.A
GUSTO KO MAGING FOREVER BABY!!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING





French Fries not available for delivery and bulk orders.

2 Reg. French Fries

Sulit-Sarap X 2! Buy 2 French Fries for only P29.00 and save P11.00! Buy 2 Spaghetti Specials for only 42.00 and save P22.00! Buy 2 Reg. Yums with Cheese for only P52.00 and save P8.00! Buy 2 Jolly Hotdogs for only P52.00 and save P6.00! Hurry! This promo is until September 13 only! Jollibee Sulit-Sarap X 2! Buy 2 French Fries for only

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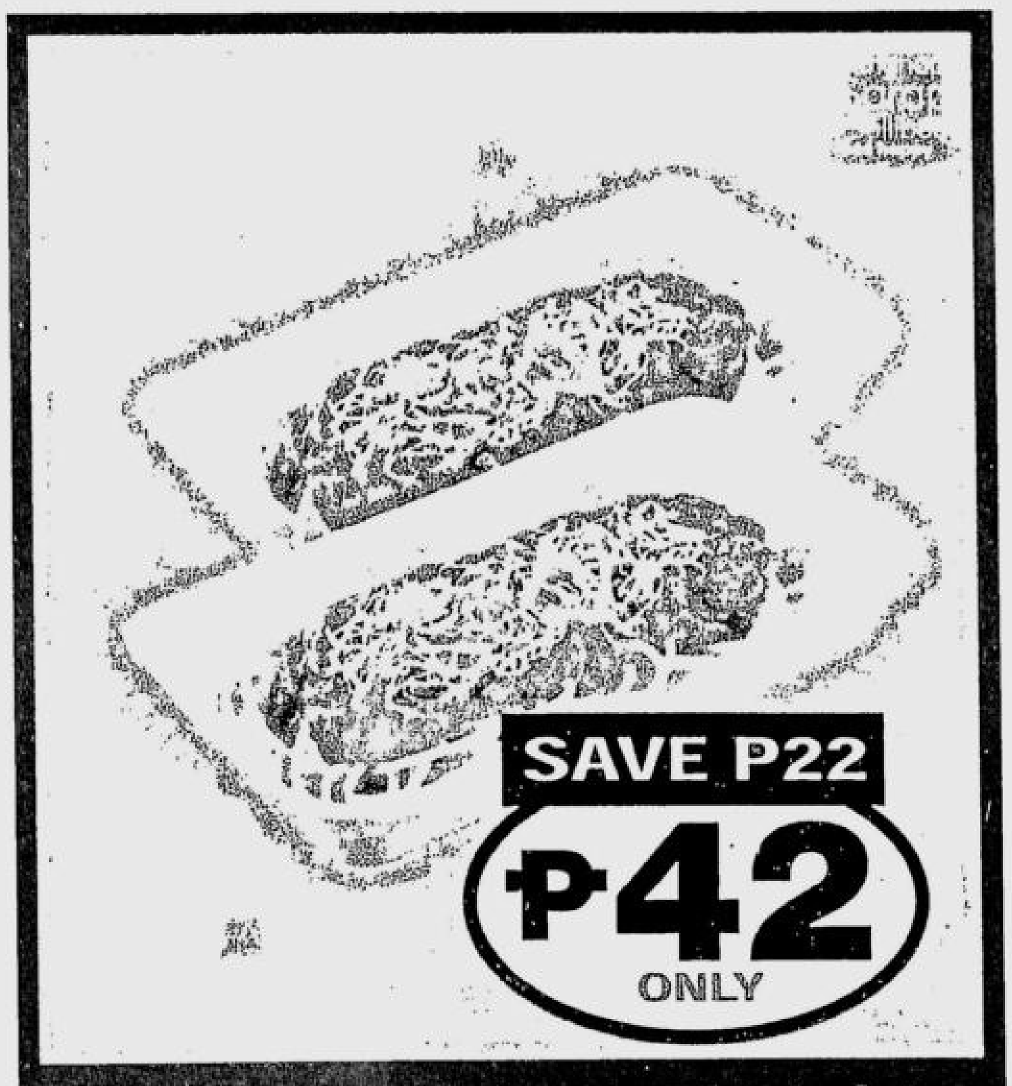

2 Spaghetti Specials

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Jollibee

Sulit-Sarap

X2

Hurry! Until Sept 13 only!

Per DTI-NCR Permit # 3350 Series of 2002

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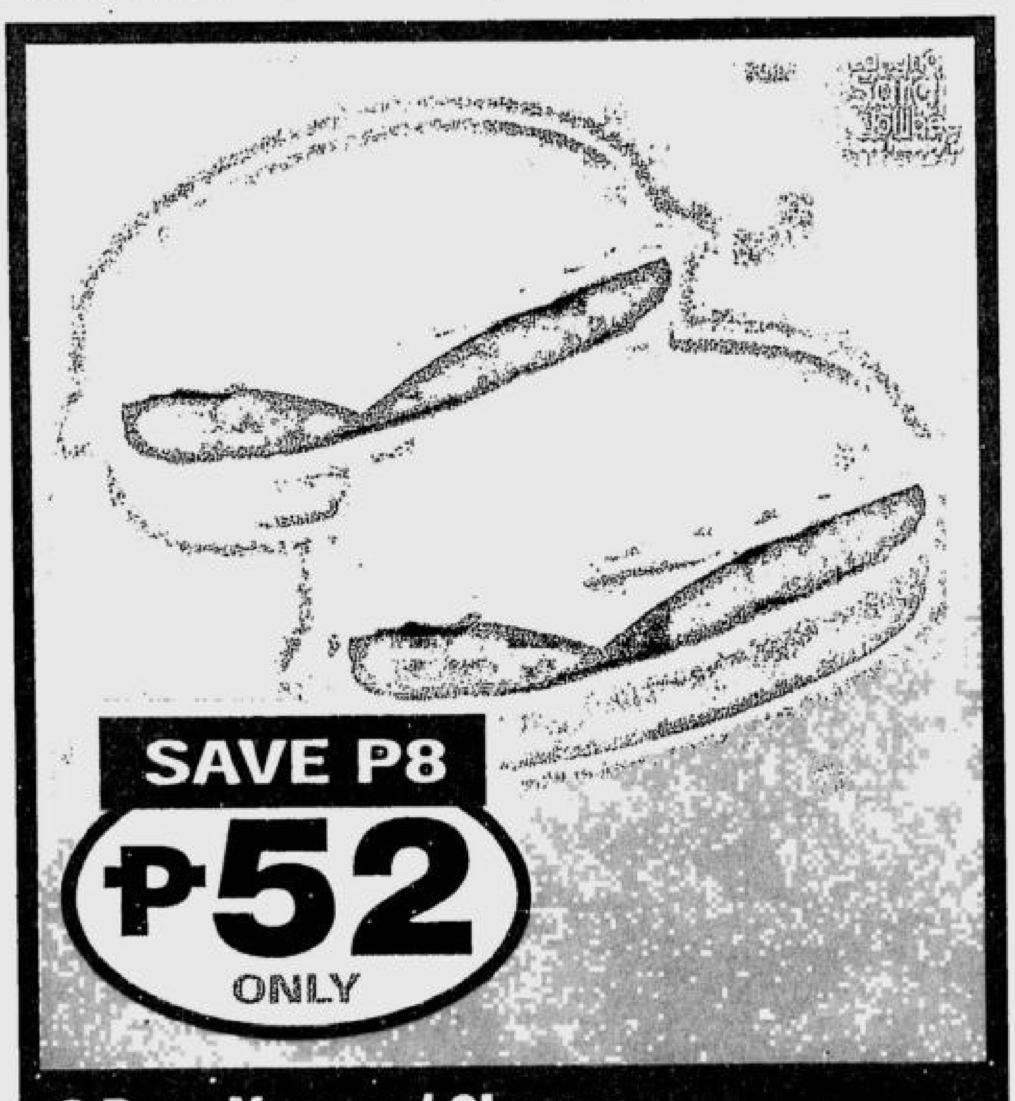

2 Reg. Yums w/ Cheese

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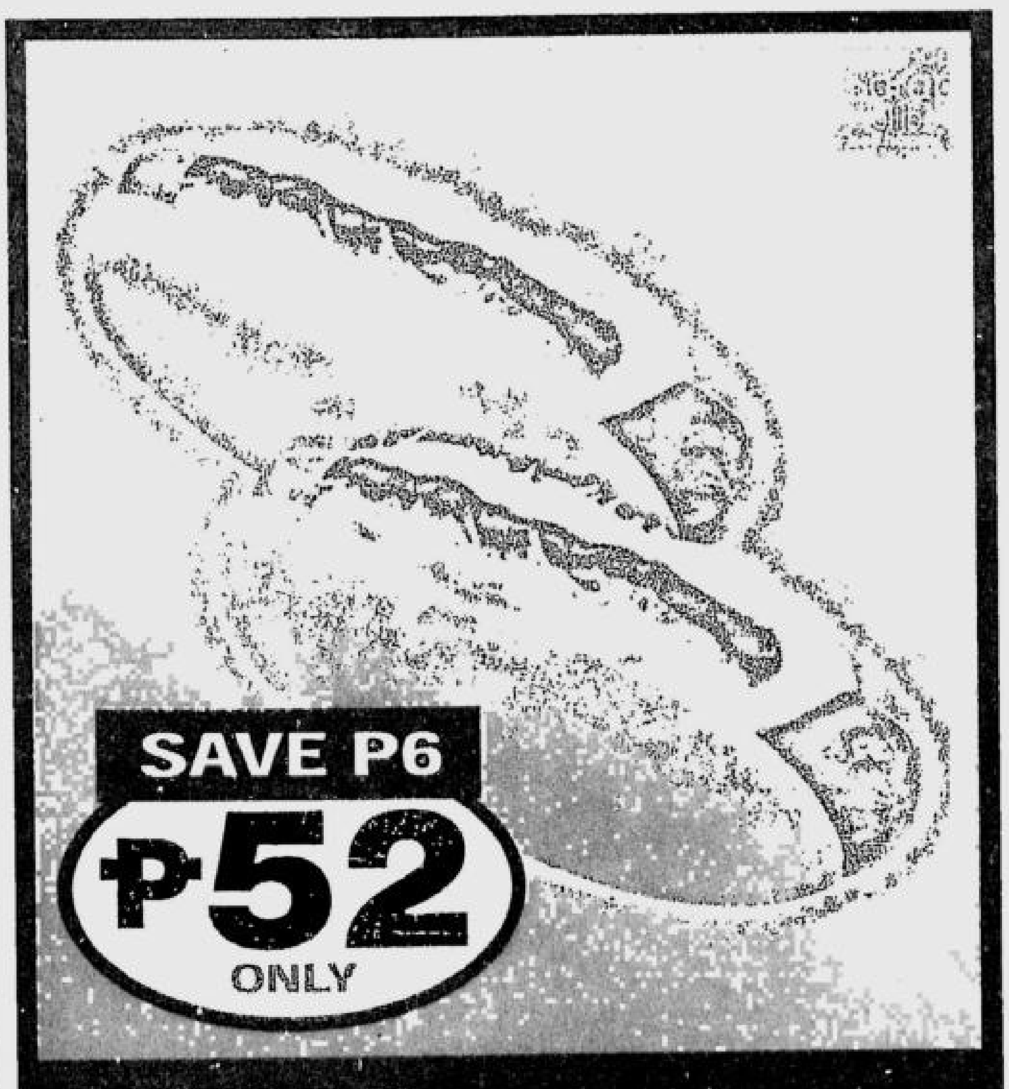
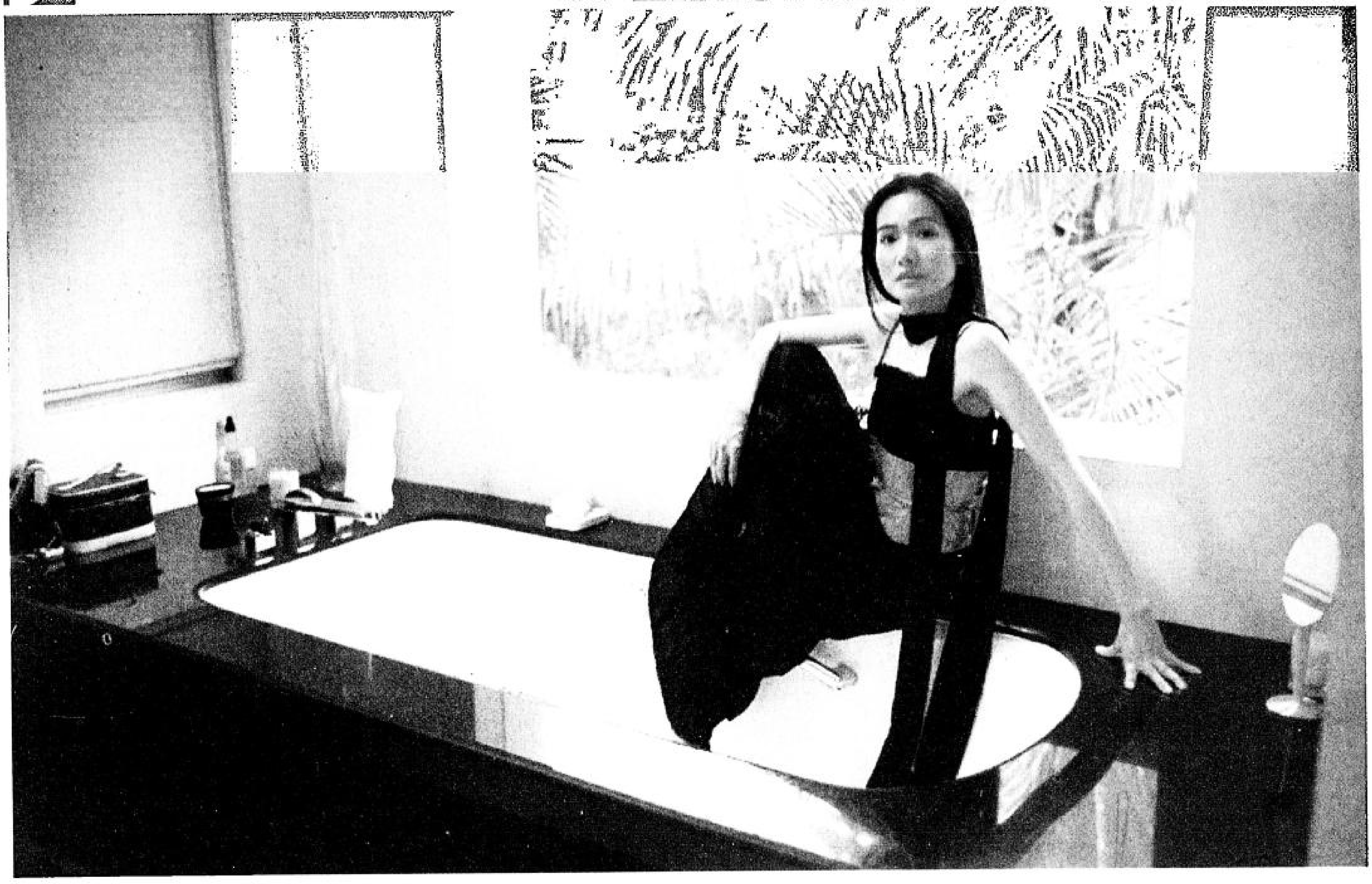


2 Jolly Hotdogs



Cindy Yang exerts no great effort to make a fashion statement but still manages to stand out

CINDY Yap-Yang in a black crinkled silk dress with crystal straps, accented with a black scarf and a Chinese brocade obi

Setting fashion trends effortlessly

SINGULAR STYLE

Text by Vangie Baga-Reyes
Photos by Mike Alquinto

NOT a few listings of the Philippines' most stylish women include Cindy Yang. She is on Rhett Eala's list of 10 most fashionable women, L'Oreal's 10 millennium women and Mega magazine's 10 most beautiful women.

All those distinctions and the admiration she invariably gets for her beauty, glamour and style, make Yang feel honored yet humbled. To tell the truth, Cindy exerts no great effort to make a fashion statement, but she still manages to stand out from the rest.

What Yang has going for her is that she simply loves to dress up—not for anybody's pleasure, but for her own personal gratification. She loves clothes, shoes and bags. But mostly branded items. For clothes, she goes for BCBG and DKNY. Gucci, Prada, Manolo Blahnik, Jimmy Choo and Giuseppe Zanotti top her list for bags and shoes.

Cindy likes to mix and match clothes, and her preference for bright vivid colors reflects her cheerful personality. The reed-thin frame of the 5'4" Yang sets off perfectly whatever clothes she wears.

During the fashion shoot for this article, good friend Eala prepared six voguish garments. Cindy wore each one quite well, posing for the shoot like a real professional model. This writer initially thought Cindy had a modeling background because of the ease she projected before the camera, smoothly doing what her brother, writer-and-party organizer Tim Yap, who was directing her for the shoot, was telling her to do.

Cindy, without any hesitation, sashayed and moved and posed following Tim's direction.

Exquisite beauty

The resulting photos suggest that Yang could easily pass herself off as a model. Although she has a smooth, tan skin, she's quick to say she has no beauty regimen. "I don't apply anything on my face and skin," Cindy claims. To remove her makeup, she only uses baby oil, water and soap. Her only vanity is her hair. She applies, quite surprisingly and almost amusing for a *fashionista* like her, *sabila* (aloe vera) to her hair. "My *yaya* applies it for me."

To stay fit, Yang works out at The Spa in the RCBC building. She also does taebo under Vanessa Garcia. She eats everything but limits her intake of rice and meat. "I love seafood, but once a week, I do eat steak because my kids love it," she says.

Cindy manages the family business, Kristine's Jewelry, at 6750 in Ayala, Makati. She's also Eala's business partner in Wink Rhett Eala in Glorietta and Rockwell. "I used to be a client of Rhett when he was still with Rustan's," she says. "Then we became good friends and later business partners."

When Cindy goes to work, she opts for a more stylish get-up, instead of typical corporate wear. She prefers skirts or shimmery pants topped with a sexy beaded blouse in bright color and sling-back or stiletto shoes. Chunky earrings, brooch or bracelets complete the look. "Some people are shocked to see me wear *pang*-party clothes in the morning," says Cindy. "They don't know I only get to wear them at work."

Devoted wife and mom

Yes, Yang gets to wear her modish clothes only during the day because in the evening, she is more likely to be already in her pajamas while other people are doing the social scene. "Many people think I'm a party girl because of how I look, but I'm not," says Cindy. "I don't go to parties like my brother does every single night. I stay home to be with my husband and kids."

In contrast to her hectic days at work, life slows down for the young mom at night. She may look like a party animal, but she actually doesn't enjoy going out. Her idea of a perfect night is being with her kids—Kay, 9, Kevin, 8 and Keith, 4.

"We pray together every night and I make it a point to put each of my kids to bed." A typical mom, Cindy wakes up at 5:30 a.m. to personally check on the kids before going to school. She prepares their *baon*, fixes Kay's hair, and sees them off to school. After the kids leave, she wakes up her husband Kenneth and prepares his things for work. After he leaves, she then gets ready to go to work. She's home before 6 p.m. to welcome returning husband and kids.

Weekend get-up

Cindy spends the weekends with the whole family. During this time, she sheds off a bit of her stylish image. "I'm fashionable but during weekends, I try to be really low-key in clothes." She wears denims topped with spandex shirt and shoes with little stiletto heels. "That's the real me." When the family goes to Tagaytay, she dons jogging pants and sneakers. "With a little eyeliner to brighten up my eyes."

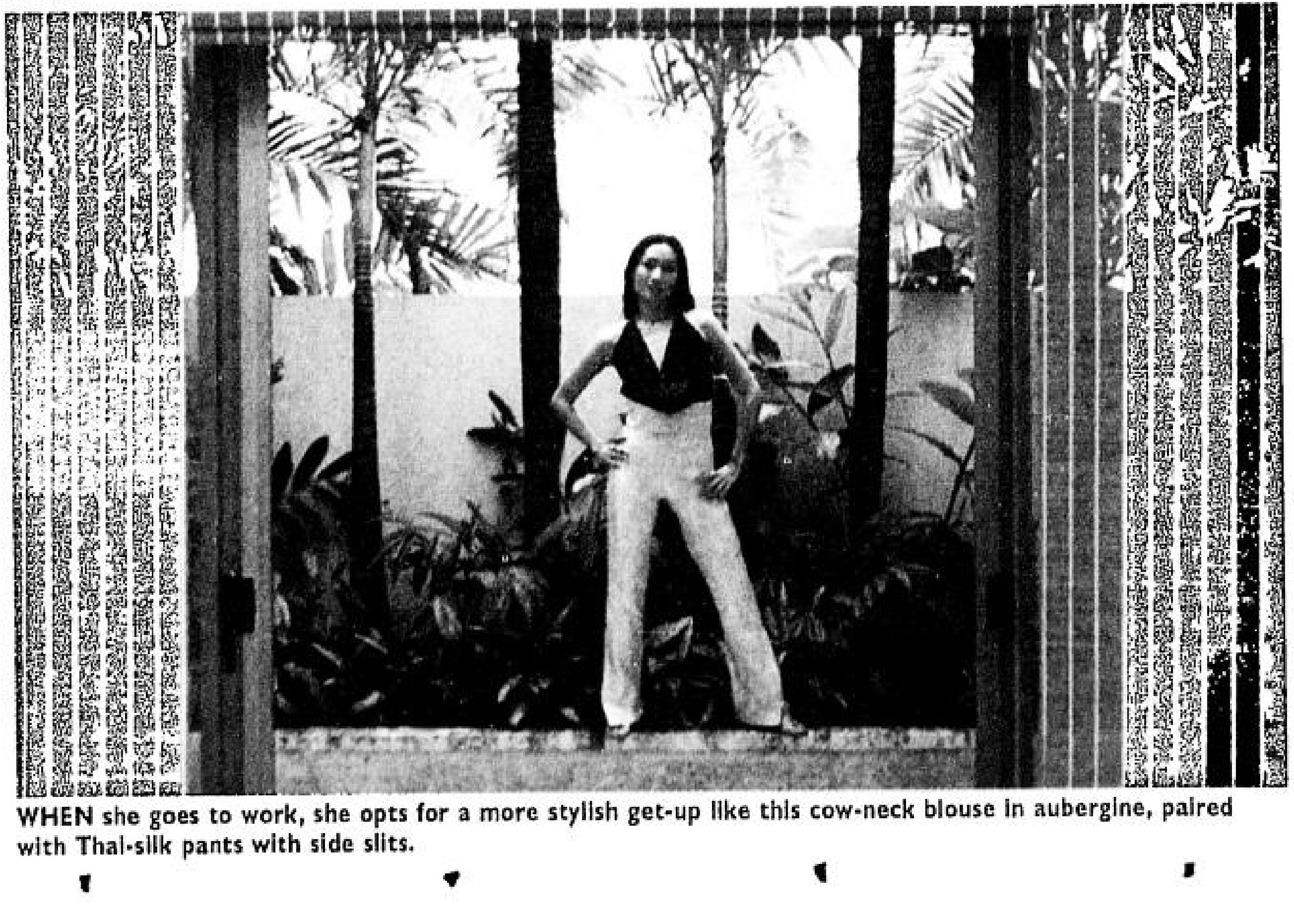
"*Basta*, I go for the look-good, feel-good outfit all the time," Cindy says. "I like simple fashionable clothes with simple, clean lines. Sometimes, they don't have to be branded clothes. For me, they must be very wearable, comfy and stylish. The (same goes for) shoes and bags."

These day, Yang goes shopping with friends. "People still think I'm a shopaholic, but I say I'm a smart shopper. I'm after quality, wearability and style even if the item is pretty expensive." Come to think of it, style and quality do not come cheaply. Branded items are often expensive.

E-mail the author at vbaga@inquirer. com.ph

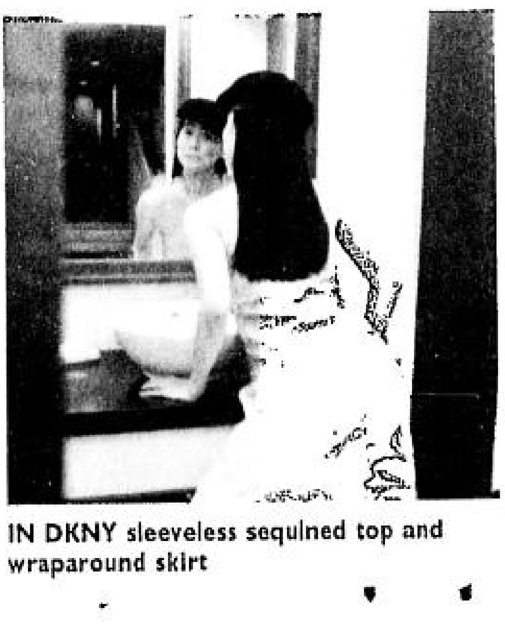
HAIR AND MAKEUP: PATRICK ROSAS
FASHION DIRECTION: TIM YAP
CLOTHES: RHETT EALA
ACCESSORIES: KRISTINE'S JEWELRY

IN GREEN satin poncho blouse with strings, paired with denim pants



WHEN she goes to work, she opts for a more stylish get-up like this cow-neck blouse in aubergine, paired with Thai-silk pants with side slits.

IN A BACK-BARING number



IN DKNY sleeveless sequined top and wraparound skirt

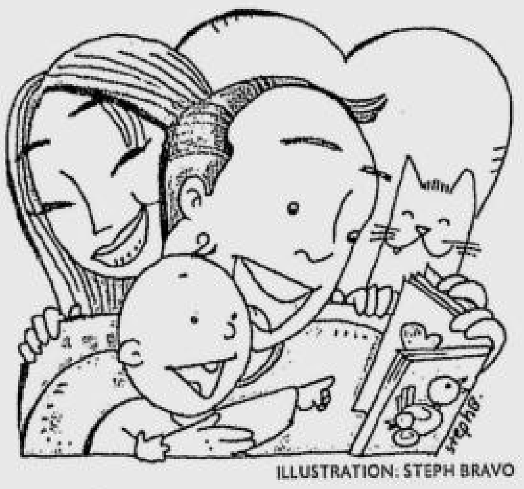


ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

Children owe success to parents

DEAR Tita Dulce,

Thank you so much for publishing my "Tribute to Mama" (PDI Lifestyle, 07/05/02). It was also a blessing that, in your comment, you said we should also remember our fathers. I am enclosing a letter my daughter wrote to me when I was in Cagayan de Oro City five years ago.

But here is another message I would like to share.

LIVE AND LET LIVE

Tita Dulce

Last Holy Week, when my Mama was still alive, I was watching a TV program where a priest was telling the story about a well-known priest who was asked, "What is your greatest achievement in life?"

The well-known priest replied, "Cutting the toenails of my father. Without him, I will not be where I am now. I have traveled the four corners of the world, preaching the word of God to a million people. It would not have been possible if my father did not sacrifice to send me to school to become a priest."

Just then, Mama arrived and I noticed that her toenails were already long. I got a nail cutter and trimmed her nails. I could not help but cry as I was doing it because I knew Mama would not last long. She was always complaining of chest pains.

"Did you quarrel with your wife?" she asked me, and I answered, "No!" She might have realized why I was crying, so she patted my shoulder and said, "Don't worry, son, I will not die yet."

How many sons and daughters nowadays cut the toenails of their parents? Remember that you will not be where you are today without your Mom and Dad.

RUDY ALBINO
Antipolo City

Thank you again for giving this reminder to readers. Indeed, not many sons and daughters still perform such services for their parents as cutting their toenails. Here is a reminder, however, for those who still do. When cutting toenails, avoid making them too rounded, to avoid ingrown problems.

I am also quoting here your daughter's letter to inspire other children to write to their parents when they are away. Please send me your complete address because I would like to return it, as well as the photo taken during the wake of your mother.

A daughter's letter

Dear Papa,

Hi! How are you? I know you are fine 'coz the Lord is always with you. Thank you for being such a good father to us.

I know that although we don't have enough time to talk about what is happening to me and Ate, we are secure. You are always there to support and love us. Don't worry 'coz Ate and I are okay and the Lord is always with us. Thank you for trusting us.

I know the Lord is preparing for the house and lot with a car. God bless! We love you.

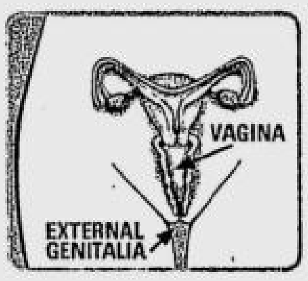
Love,
Roselie

P.S. *Papa, we want to achieve our goals because we have parents who are very supportive.*

The Truth
Every Woman Should Know

Kung walang sakit, 'di mo kailangan ng gamot for everyday feminine care.

FACT 1: The vagina and the external genitalia are not the same.
The vagina is the canal that connects the uterus and the external genitalia. The external genitalia, on the other hand, is the exposed part of the female sex organ which includes the outer and inner lip covered with pubic hair.

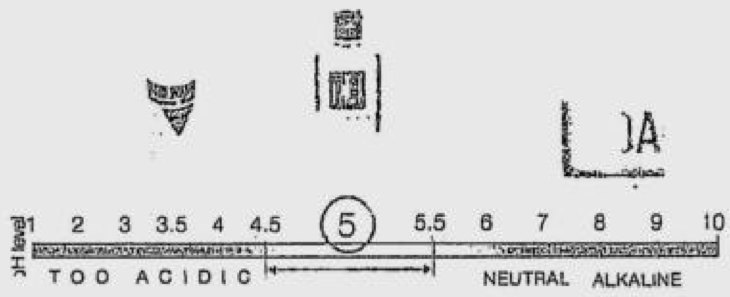


FACT 2: The vagina and the external genitalia have different pH levels.
The vagina has a pH level near 3.5 while the external genitalia has a pH level between 4.5 and 5.5.

pH level refers to the level of acidity or alkalinity of a liquid measured from pH 1 to 14. pH levels that are lower than pH 4.5 are considered too acidic while those higher than pH 5.5 are too alkaline for your external genitalia.

FACT 3: You need a daily feminine wash that matches the pH level of your external genitalia and not your vagina.
Remember that it is your external genitalia that you wash everyday, not your vagina. You wash the part that is exposed and not the canal that is inside.

FACT 4: That is why for everyday feminine care, 'di mo kailangan ng gamot. You need an everyday feminine wash.
Ang feminine wash na gamot should be used for the external genitalia only when there are infections and irritations. It is too harsh for everyday use for the external genitalia. Ang soap naman too alkaline. Using either of these will disrupt the natural balance in your external genitalia and may cause irritation and dryness when used daily.



FACT 5: For everyday feminine care, you need pH care.
pH care is not soap at hindi rin gamot. It has the right pH level of 5 that matches the pH level of the external genitalia, thus maintaining its natural balance. Kaya tamang-tama for daily use. With **pH care**, you' re clean, mabango at malayo sa infections.

pH care
INTIMATE WASH
pH care
INTIMATE WASH
pH care
Pink Passion
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Be extra careful in choosing your feminine wash.
Para malaman kung gamot, check out the following:
(GENERIC BOX) May generic box at generic name.
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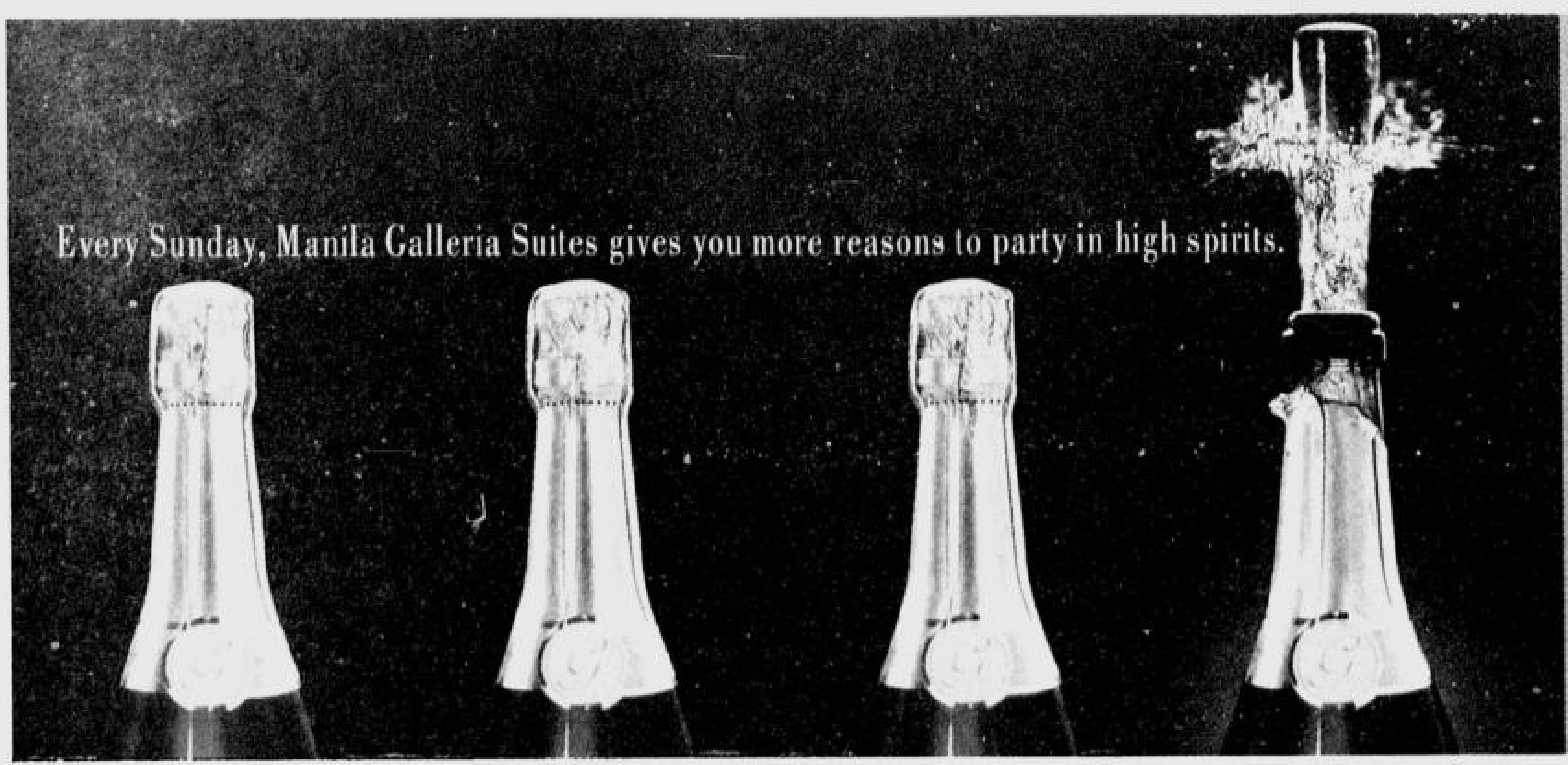
(INDICATION) For douching or for the treatment of vaginitis, vulvitis and other infections.

Ask your doctor about these.

For everyday feminine care.
pH care
INTIMATE WASH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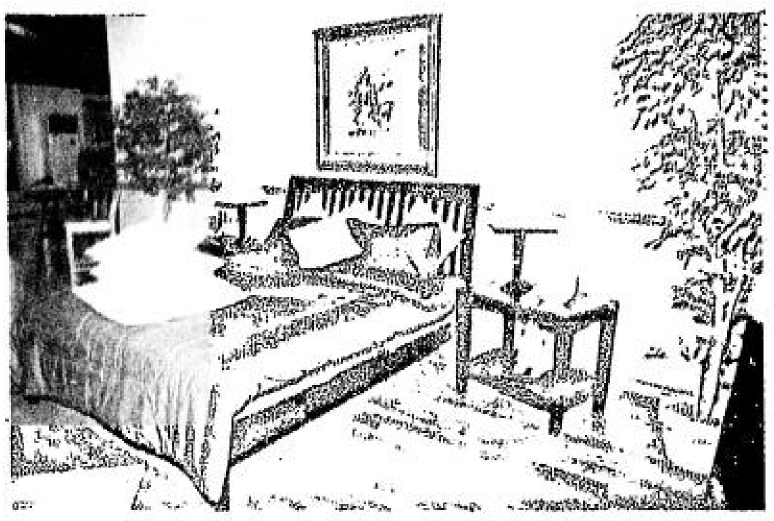
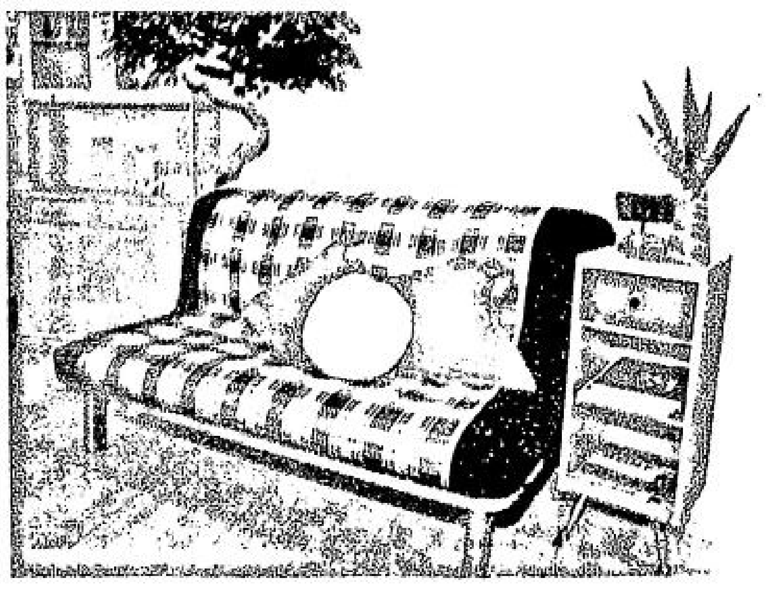
CONTEMPORARY STYLE. Ikeda queen bed frame with Ikeda side tables



TRADITIONAL. Oxford queen bed frame



QUIET CORNER. Anna leisure chair in mahogany and Gallery lamp on top of Amanda side table

Design options under one roof

From page D8

This one-stop shop satisfies all your home design and gift cravings

looking for design ideas to decorate or refurbish their homes.

Lea Disini, merchandising officer of I.D.O., says that the aim of the store is to provide an environment where one can find anything and everything for the home. "We also make sure that the quality of the merchandise sold here is above par and that the selection we have is not available just anywhere," she says.

I.D.O. sources its furniture from Southeast Asia. It is the sole distributor of plush and comfortable Lane sofa beds and recliners from the United States. In fact, there is one whole section on the third floor of the showroom that offers a wide selection of Lane furniture from single beds to double beds and armchairs to suit your budget. The second floor features furniture and accessories along the contemporary and traditional line while the ground floor hosts the Zen collection.

Diverse options

There are living room, bedroom and dining room showcases to give clients ideas on how to furnish their homes. You can actually spend half a day just checking the many options available in this well-stocked, practical and yet stylish shop.

The accessories are sourced from here and abroad. Located on the ground floor, next to the Zen showcase, you can find home accents such as picture frames, decorative candleholders, vases, lamps, wall prints, linen, throw and accent pillows to name a few.

Prices are very reasonable. If you're shopping for a birthday gift, you can choose from unique candleholders ranging in prices from P200-P400. For a wedding, you can get a set of vases in the Zen motif for around a thousand pesos.

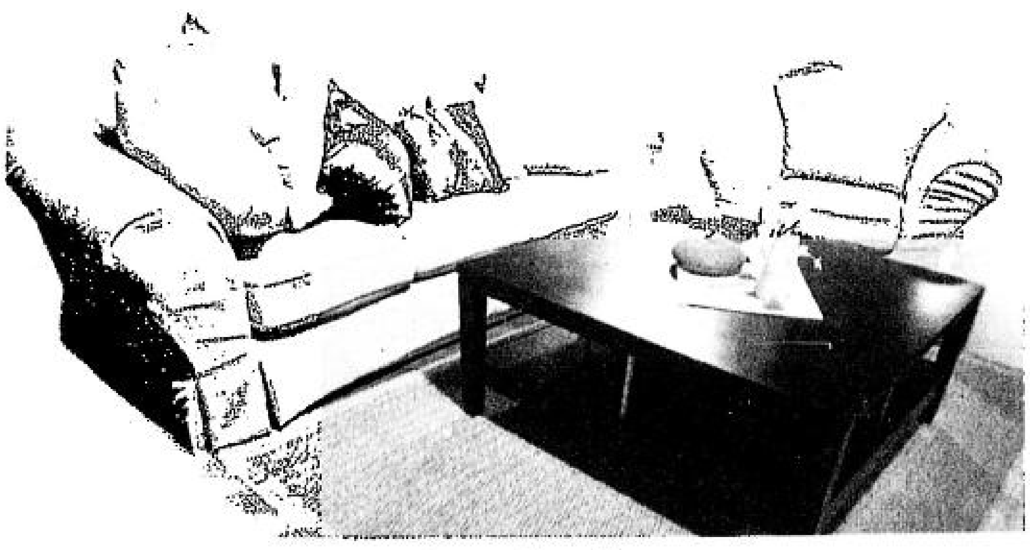
Homebuilders will relish the various kitchen showcases that are on display on the third floor. There are five functional modular kitchens called the I.D.O. Kitchen Systems where state-of-the-art hardware and materials come from Blum, a worldwide leader in European kitchen systems. Each kitchen is designed for a specific function, design, taste and lifestyle. In accordance with the store's overall theme there is a country-style and a contemporary kitchen as well.

Disini said that bridal registry services are also available upon request. "We also have a 10-percent rebate system on purchased items where patrons can accumulate their rebate vouchers to be used on a larger item so the client eventually pays less than the actual cost," she added.

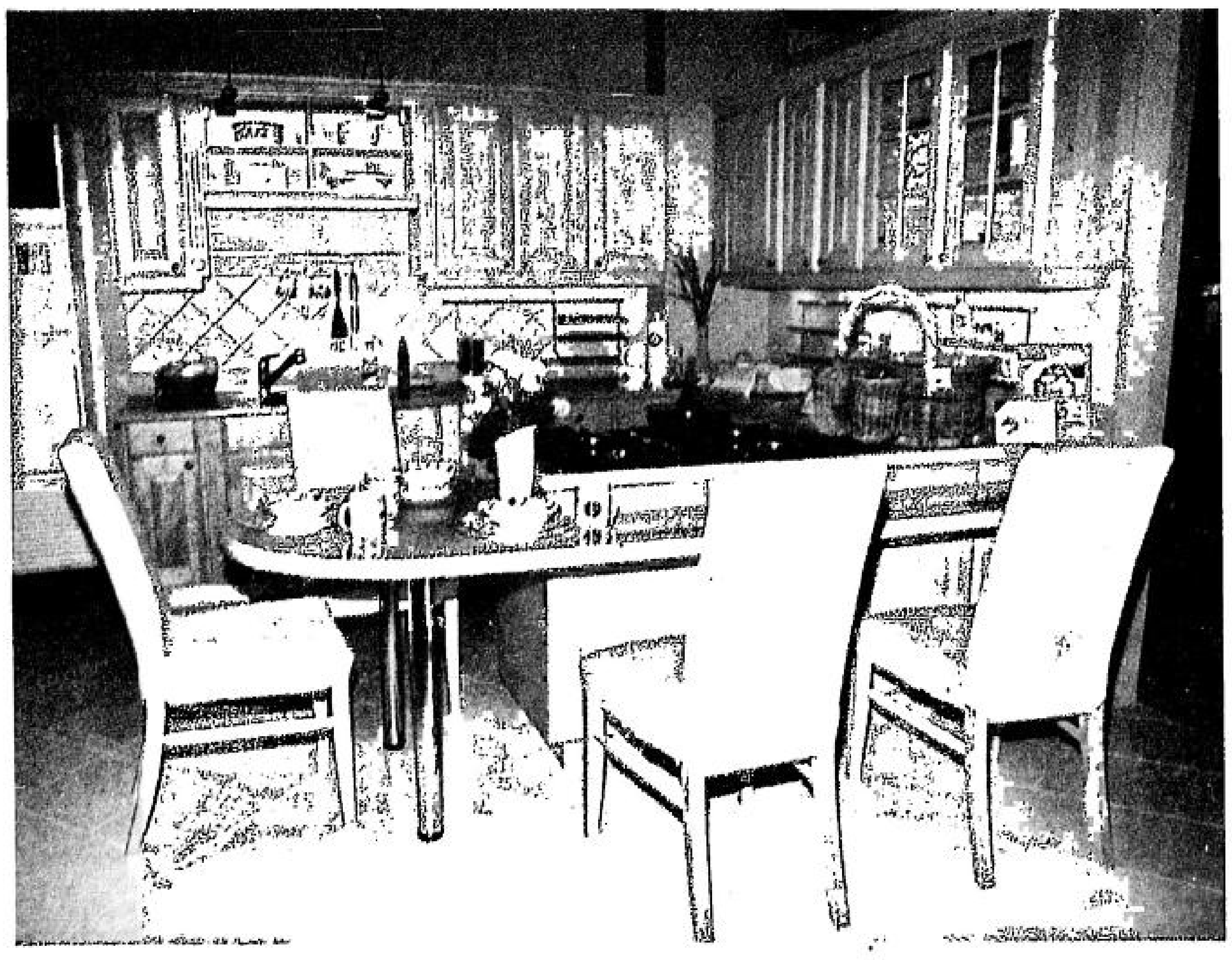
I.D.O. is located at 79 Doña Hemady St., New Manila, QC

E-mail the author at cbguballa@inquirer.com.ph

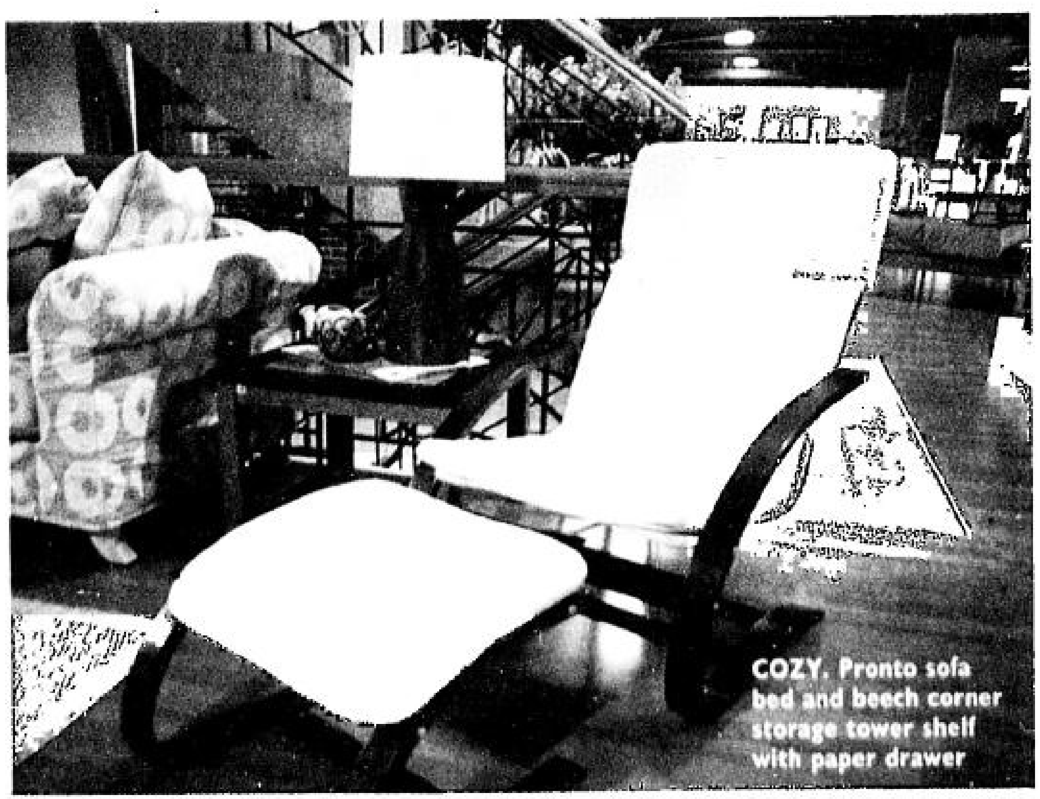
KYOTO square dining table in dark wood



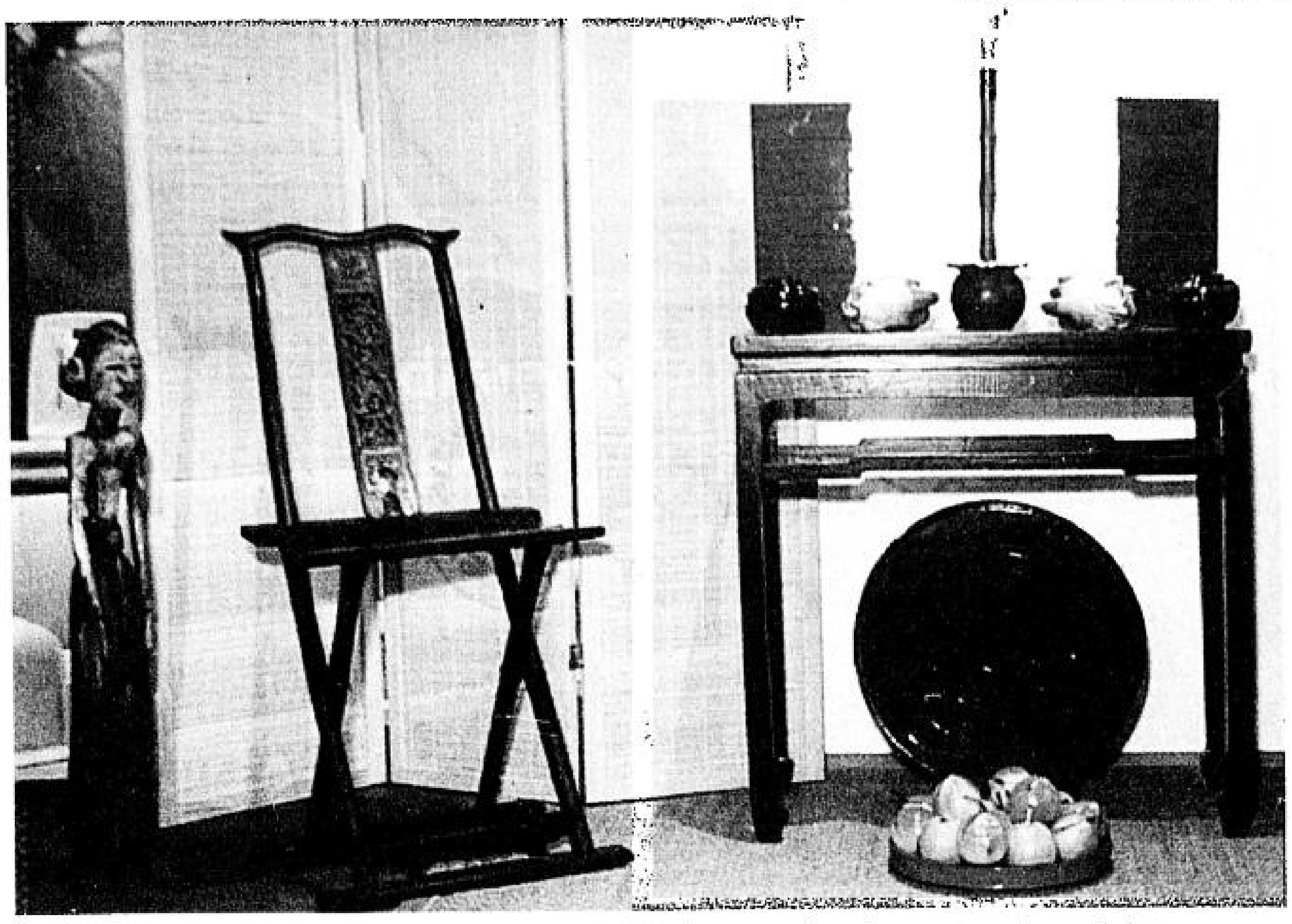
CRAWFORD three-seater sofa and Kyoto coffee table



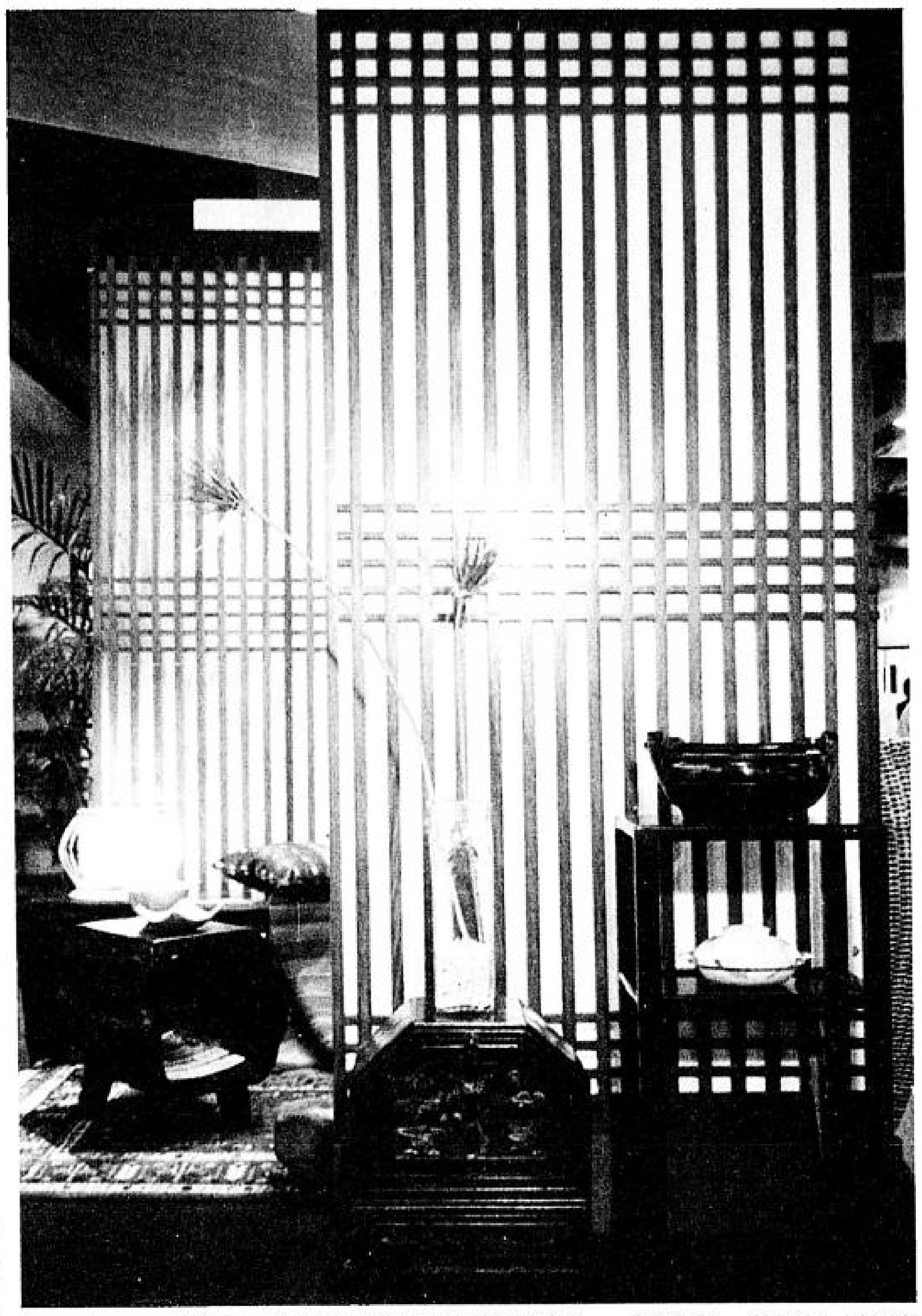
NOSTALGIA Kitchen in solid wood



COZY. Pronto sofa bed and beech corner storage tower shelf with paper drawer

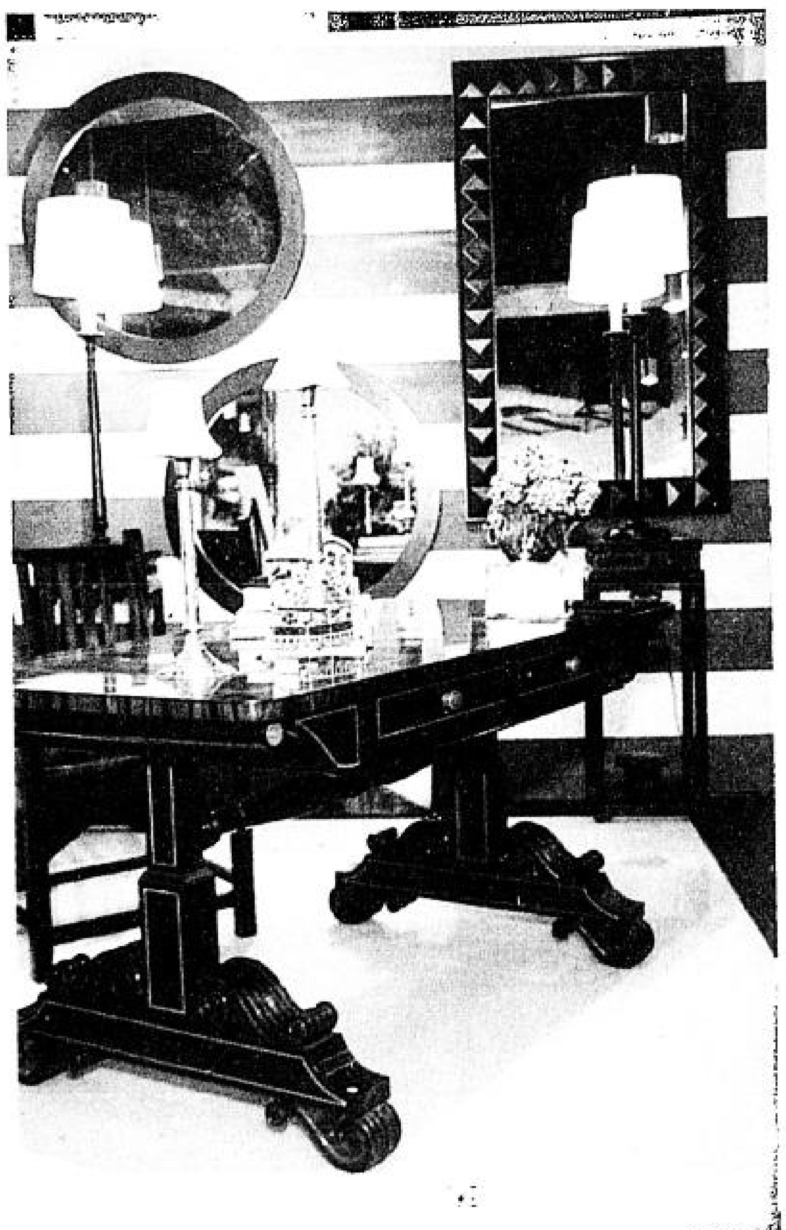


HUBILLA: "Oriental themes and textures play up laid-back surroundings for an atmosphere of vintage elegance."



East meets West in home exhibit

AYALA Center invited five of the country's top architects and interior designers to interpret their visions of home interior trends in 2003 with the use of pieces from the mall's home stores.



MATTI: "We see lots of stripes, swirls, curves and circles... more attention to fine craftsmanship and detail."

The exhibit is ongoing at the Homezone Lobby, 3/L Glorietta 4, Ayala Center, until tomorrow. Homezone is a neighborhood of 15 stores that specialize in home interiors and accessories, including Restoration, PNKY, Osmundo Arts and Antiques, Homebound, A Touch of Elegance, Unica, Urban Effects, Cereo Candle Exchange, Pointe East Gallery, Earth Colors, Berde Plants, Dimensione, Leila's Carpet, Home & Beyond, Art Fab, Lupon and Gintong Sining Art Center.

In the stellar cast are Johnny Hubilla, J. Antonio Mendoza, Jonathan Matti, Bernie Miranda and Tina Periquet. Everyone created disparate visual statements but agreed on one thing: a very strong traditional presence in urban living.

"After a century of soul-searching, Filipinos are finally coming to terms with who we are, a fascinating hybrid of East and West," says architect Periquet. She may as well be talking of local culture as a whole but she is just explaining why she sees a very strong presence of Asian art, furniture and home accessories in the modern home for 2003.

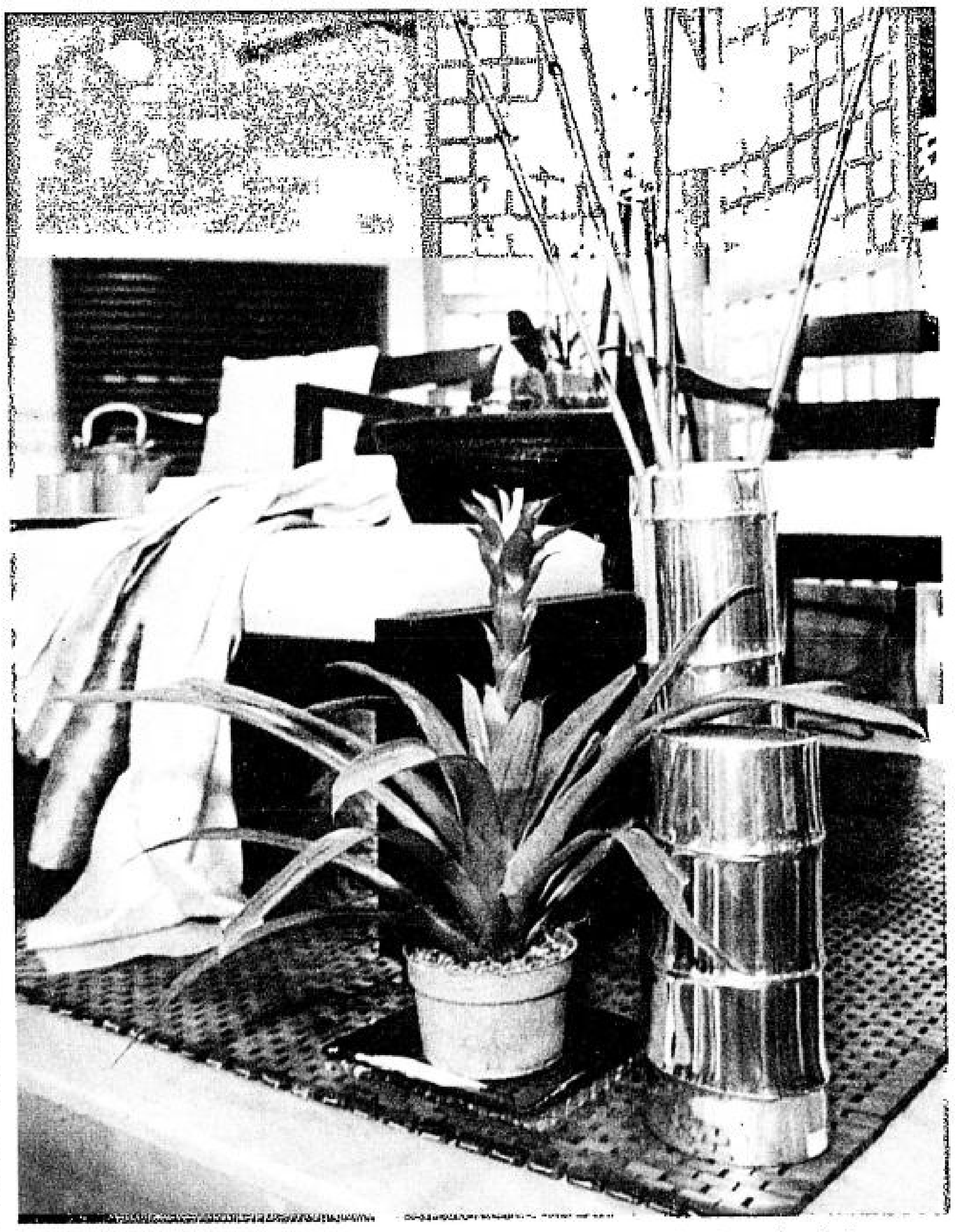
Mendoza's design approach is clear in his display of a private study that mixes traditional carved chairs in wood with a steel-legged glass table.

Hubilla, in his rendering of a reception area, used varied Oriental themes that could prove a bit heavy when done by lesser hands, but with the use of light and lean furniture and accessories, Hubilla's statement is all about rich culture on lean fixtures for maximum space.

In his setup for Homezone, aged or intentionally worn surfaces are contrasted with exotic Oriental pieces. Fine handcrafted wood, crystal and metal pieces provide accents to simple, rustic, relaxed spaces—raw settings for refined Oriental details.

Matti, who created a home office setting with lots of lacquered wood and mirrors, says interiors in 2003 will have more color, texture and a mix of unexpected building materials with the more traditional ones.

The Filipino touch is never more apparent than in Miranda's display of a living room that surrounds a pair of sleekly upholstered Japanese-inspired chairs in wenge wood with a *capiz* window divider, *banig* pillows and a woven wood carpeting.



MIRANDA: "Incorporating contemporary looks to our native furniture is what's happening next year."

Text in the City

puwedeng-puwede! Sa 200 stalls ng **Greenhills Cellphones & Gadgets Fair**.

Mahilig ka ba sa text? From August 16 to September 8, Greenhills Shopping Center will open 200 stalls for all cellphone lovers! So go ahead, fulfill your text fantasies dahil ngayon, within reach mo na lahat ng klase ng cellphones. Pati gadgets gaya ng PDAs at computers, meron! Dali, forward this message to your textmates and start bargain-hunting from 10am to 8pm, and up to 10pm on Fridays and Saturdays.

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GOING JAPANESE. Kyoto king-size bed and lamp table with Kangda lounge chair

Design options under one roof

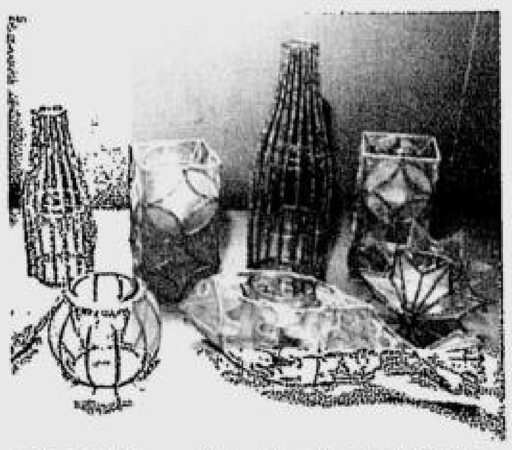
Text by Cathy Babao Guballa
Photos by Roger Carpio

THIS shop is like a woman with many faces. It can go conservative, casual and minimalist. Such are the décor selections available at Interior Design Options (I.D.O.), where one can find reasonably priced and stylish furnishings and home accessories all under one roof.

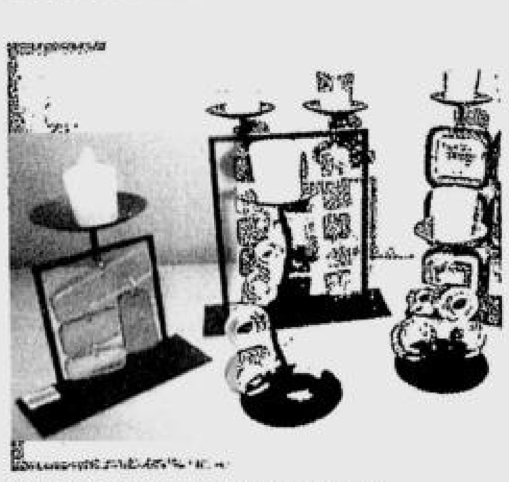
Located in New Manila, QC, the three-story showroom covers 1,500 sq m and presents a variety of furniture and accents suitable for every home. There are three distinct styles homeowners can choose from—traditional, contemporary and Zen—in furnishings that range from tables to chairs, sofas, beds, lamps, rugs and candleholders.

Now on its fourth year of operations, I.D.O. has incorporated innovative ideas and services and developed a concept that defines a unique approach to functionality and design. In addition to the items available in the store, there are professional design services such as in-house interior designers who offer their services to walk-in clients or those who are

DESIGN/ p.D6



COLORFUL candleholders in sheer fabric



FUNKY. Resin and wrought iron candelabras

ZEN STYLE. Ceramic vases and accessories with comet lamp

Ever Dearest Lolo & Lola

PUPUNG's
Tonton Young

A Grandparents' Day Celebration at Ever Malls

PAST, PRESENT... PICTURE!

[illegible]

PHOTOLINE

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See activity posters for more details.

BINGO!

Bingo Amusements Corporation

September 7 • Commonwealth Center, Mall Atrium
September 8 • Ortigas Complex, Mall Atrium 2
September 14 • Grand Central, 2/F LRT Entrance

Health Check

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September 7 • Commonwealth Center, Mall Atrium
September 8 • Ortigas Complex, Mall Atrium 2
September 14 • Grand Central, 2/F LRT Entrance

Grand Notes

[illegible]

I Love u
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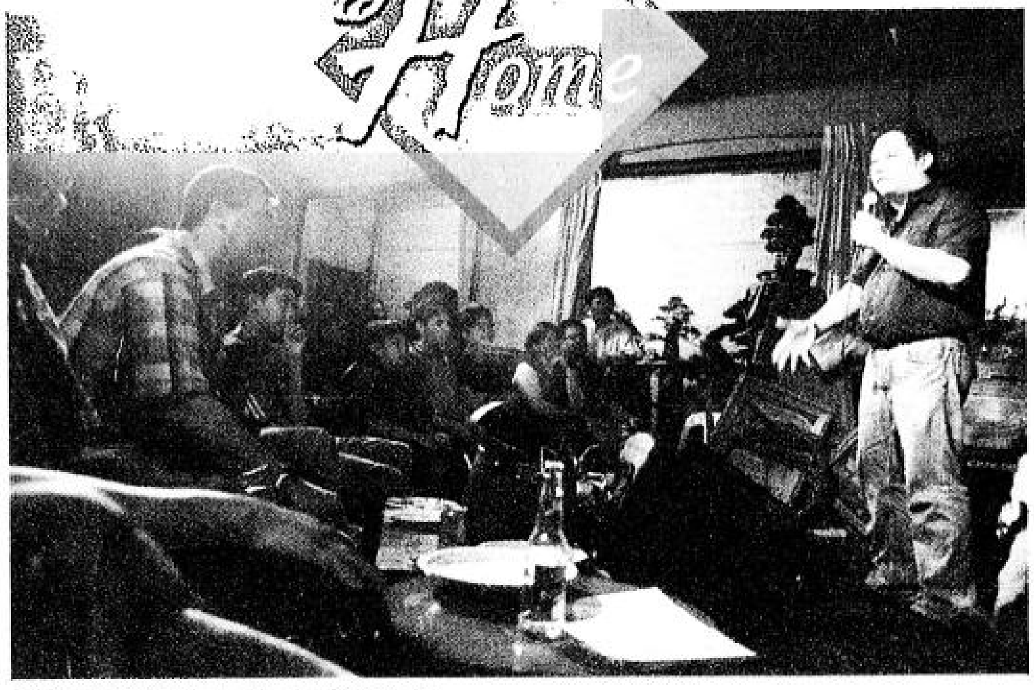
LIFESTYLE Home



NAVARRETE: Portrait of a Pinoy as a stand-up comic PHOTO: JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

'C'mon, c'mon, what's up for you?'

LIFE-STYLED

Thelma Sioson San Juan

IT'S amazing how much we're willing to spend to be able to laugh at ourselves. Last week, the Fil-Am comic **Rex Navarrete** was the hottest act in town—in a free show at Greenbelt that drew a thousand and last Friday, in a P300/ticket gig at Rockwell's Dish, which saw the crowd actually "sardined" in the venue. It was so packed that you couldn't move from one table to another. We had to turn away many who were begging—that's the word—to buy tickets, some willing to pay as much as P500 per or even a thousand. (As **Philip Cuunjieng** of Dish, which sponsored the act with Chalk magazine, said, it was the night he was making enemies for himself, since he and **EJ Litton** also had to turn away some people.)

But why did this erstwhile obscure funnyman cause such a stir in Metro Manila?

To begin with, sleek urbanites go where the Pied Piper goes; spread something by word of mouth and they will follow—they don't want to miss the bandwagon. In Rex's case, even before the media caught on, his humor, captured in CDs and popular among Pinoys who'd seen his act in California, became the loudest buzz in town.

> The Rex Navarrete gigs make you wonder when we will stop laughing at ourselves and start loving ourselves

Also, the guy's really good.

For a couple of years now, **Ernie Lopez** has been telling us about this guy whose humor he's thoroughly enjoyed and could relate to. Ernie and his siblings lived in California when their family was in exile during the martial law years, and Ernie's younger brother was the same age as Rex's, early 30s, and would hang out with the comic. Like the young Lopezes, Rex grew up in San Francisco. Now and then Ernie would say how they wanted to bring Rex over so we could hear him for ourselves, but we didn't quite appreciate that plan and we didn't have the patience to listen to his CDs, which Ernie would play in his car. (We were more engrossed trying to survive Ernie's driving.)

This year, the plan finally pushed through, and Rex's act has been written up so much.

So why did Rex click?

Rex can draw sketches of the Pinoy in a manner that's both involved and quite detached. He's so Pinoy that our quirks and our deeds and misdeeds are in his genes. Growing up in a Fil-Am home in the US provided him with inexhaustible and priceless material served up with a keen eye, a razor-sharp wit and most graphic language. Yet, being young and malleable, Rex can scrutinize the Pinoy from a healthy distance, like an outsider who's privy to the goings-on in the household, yet detached enough to be able to size it up, laugh at it—and survive it.

It's a gas how he captures the Pinoy's unique English—"For a while" (meaning, for a few minutes), "What's up for you?" (what's up?) and other literal translations from Tagalog to English using prepositions in a manner only we Pinoys can. Add to these the Pinoy's affected pronunciations and accents, as in his sketch on "SBC packers" ("we pack and

C'MON/ p.E2

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GARDEN SOUP
Ingredients:
4 cloves garlic, crushed
1 small (50 g.) onion, sliced
150 g. beef kenchi, cut into small cubes
6-7 cups water
1 1/2 tsp. fine iodized salt (or 1 1/2 tbsp. iodized rock salt)
1/4 tsp. pepper
100 g. DEL MONTE Elbow Macaroni
1 pouch 250 g. DEL MONTE Tomato Sauce
2 small potatoes (200 g.), diced
1 medium (150 g.) carrot, diced
1/2 cup cooked or frozen green peas
1/2 cup canned corn kernels

Procedure:
Sauté garlic, onion and beef. Add water, salt and pepper. Simmer until tender. Add DEL MONTE Elbow Macaroni, DEL MONTE Tomato Sauce, diced potatoes and diced carrots. Simmer for 8 minutes. Add peas and corn. Simmer once before serving. Makes 8 servings.

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New source of home improvement funds

A NEW consumer loan product is now easily and readily available from the country's largest foreign bank to help homeowners turn a property into more of the home they want it to be for their family.

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"With the children in school for most of the day, this may be a good time for parents to undertake home improvement projects. They can avail of a Citibank Installment Loan, which is the most fuss-free and the quickest loan product in the market," says Patty Pronove-Henson, Citibank AVP.

Aside from home repairs, Citibank Installment Loan can also be used for a wide range of purposes, including furniture and appliance purchases, school tuition payment, bills payment, insurance premiums payment, medical expenses, lifestyle expenditures and travels.

To apply, simply call 423-3333, Monday to Saturday, 8:30 a.m.-8:30 p.m. You will be instantly connected to a Citibank representative who will process the application online and will advise you of how much you can borrow and payment period. Citibank Installment Loan is initially available in Metro Manila, Cavite, Laguna, Bulacan and Rizal Province.

After getting a conditional approval from a Citibank representative, a bank messenger will then deliver the application form to you at your home or office for your signature and to pick up the required documents.

Don't forget to indicate how you wish to receive the money—by fund transfer, where Citibank will credit the loan amount to your bank account, or by manager's check, which will be delivered to your residence or place of work.

A borrower may loan any amount from P15,000 up to P1 million, payable for as long as 36 months to as short as 12 months. Interest rates range from 1.5 to 2 percent per month.

Income requirements are as low as P120,000 annually for employed individuals and P180,000 for the self-employed; Non-Citibank customers are welcome to apply, as being a bank customer or a credit cardholder are not prerequisites to getting loan approval.

For your convenience, monthly statements will be sent to you to remind you of payment due dates. You can settle your bills at any Citibank accredited payment centers including MegaLink/BancNet-affiliated banks and SM Department Stores nationwide.

Inquiries may also be directed to accredited Citibank sales representatives found in various mall booths or trade events.

'C'mon, c'mon, what's up for you?'

From page E1

pack").

Then also, he has takes on the Pinoy's extended family ("Everybody has a Tito Boy"), hang-up on religion (Sto. Niño as the super savior), toilet habits (he has ample brown humor) and other stuff the Pinoy knows only too well. He says that only in Metro Manila malls does one come across such a high-tech security gadget—the guard's wooden stick that pokes into your bag.

Apart from all this, we are a captive market for anything that parodies ourselves. Humor is our tried-and-tested coping mechanism, as we all know. Rex parodies our culture and lifestyle.

Rex isn't so much into politics, not as current or as merciless as a **Jon Santos** or a **Willie Nepomuceno**, perhaps because he doesn't live here.

It's good that he isn't because, frankly, our politics and corruption are no longer funny in these times. Our state of affairs is no longer just a source of humor—it's a source of stress and burnout. It's already exasperating how, one administration after another, one "Edsa" after another, we've messed things up—from the political bickering and power play to business and the economy, to crime and poverty. The way we are and the way we've mismanaged our national affairs are already reasons for despair, not a source of humor. There's no humor in the rape of Filipino women in Malaysian refugee camps, only anger.

What I've been trying to drive at, after seeing this Rex Navarrete phenomenon, is that it's about time we stopped laughing at ourselves—and started loving ourselves. Start being proud of ourselves. It's about time we had a sense of pride in ourselves, instead of just a sense of humor and parody.

But we can have this sense of pride and self-worth—only if and when we straighten out our act, correct a lot of wrongs, institute structural reforms and restore our sense of values. In brief, we must slave at building a society that's worth loving and living in.

Just last week a foreigner who's lived here for some time told me how, on trips abroad, he couldn't sit through dinners with some Filipinos. He couldn't stand the way these Filipinos bashed their country abroad, and he, the foreigner, ironically, always ended up defending the country—before Filipinos. He's surprised and appalled, and I'm hard put trying to explain why we indulge in public self-flagellation. And yet, this "expat" has had a taste of syndicated corruption here.

Perhaps it's just as well that Rex didn't touch on corruption in his acts, at least I didn't notice if he did. Our corruption, like cancer, is already too tragic and macabre to be a source of comedy.

So—"what's up for us?" For a change, let's quit laughing at ourselves. There must be more to our national life than this self-deprecating laughter. It'll be tragic if what we pass on to future generations is nothing more than canned gas.

Pride of heritage

An event that should stir our sense of pride is "Zero In: Private Art, Public Lives," a series of exhibitions running until October. A first in the country, this opens to the public the pivotal art collections of the Ateneo Art Gallery, Ayala Museum and Lopez Museum.

Blending art and history, the series is held in those three venues. You can go to the Ayala Museum (Philippine Stock Exchange on Ayala Avenue) for Amorsolo's historical paintings, to the Lopez Museum for Luna's Parisian period paintings and Hidalgo's Bustamante drawings, and to the Ateneo Art Gallery for Postwar Art, the years of the Philippine Art Gallery, the '50s and early '60s.

This ambitious undertaking should show you the breadth and scope of Philippine art history.

Complementing the exhibits are weekly lectures this month, including "Rethinking Amorsolo" with Dr. **Rod. Paras-Perez, Romulo Galicano** and **Sylvia Amorsolo-Lazo**; and "Nation and Collecting" with **Ramon N. Villegas**. (Just call the museums for the venue and schedule.)

All heart

Lifestyle had a most intriguing article last Sunday, which we relished reading: a 70-ish woman looking for romance. A pure one, when "bed has become moot and academic." Its byline, I believe, was a pen name, but something about the article (not only in, but about)—read it to see what I mean—tells me the writer, like me, went to St. Theresa's, where we were "brainwashed" about openness, honesty, independence and other values and ideals which, I sometimes feel, no longer mix-and-match with today's world. Unlike fashion, such values, I'm afraid, aren't retro; not making a comeback at all.

An affair purely of the heart? That may sit well with Theresians, but with men? Doubt it.

Widow's tears

A friend lost recently her spouse from whom she had been estranged for decades. When I asked the new widow if she shed tears upon learning about her ex-husband's death, she said, "I did cry a lot. It's such a waste that we couldn't even be friends, such a waste of hurt and anger. Couples should know when to let go and be happy apart."

E-mail the author at tsanjuan@skyinet.net

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Franco-Filipino bazaar for a cause at Rockwell

GOINGS-ON

THE FRENCH Embassy and Alliance Francaise de Manille will hold the first Franco-Filipino NGO Bazaar and Exhibition from Sept. 9 to 15 at the Power Plant Mall, Rockwell, Makati. To be set up at the South Court, East Entrance, Plaza Drive of the mall, the bazaar and exhibit will showcase furniture, handicrafts, garments and fashion accessories. The proceeds will go to impoverished Filipino communities.

CULINARY SHOW. Renowned baking specialist Heny Sison joins San Miguel Purefoods chef Martin del Prado in a culinary showdown on Sept. 6, 5-7 p.m., at the Asia Food Expo 2002, World Trade Center, Roxas Boulevard. Magnolia Gold Culinary Adventure tickets will be distributed for free on a first come-first served basis at Magnolia Food Service booths today at 2-4 p.m. Join and win prizes from Magnolia Gold.

WORKSHOP. International photographer John E. Mossige will hold workshops on creative photography from September to mid-November in Manila. Deadline of enrollment for the first workshop is on Sept. 13. Call 844-0350.

AWARDS. The deadline for the submission of entries to Schwarzkopf's Philippine Hairdressing Awards has been extended until today only. All entries should be at the Top Style Marketing Inc. offices, located at 25PA Eisenhower St., Eisenhower Condominium, Greenhills, San Juan, by 5 p.m. today. The awarding ceremonies will be on Oct. 15 at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel. Contest winners will then represent the Philippines in Schwarzkopf's Asia Hairdressing Awards in Hong Kong. Call 726-8507 to 08 or 722-0278.

FORUM. The Quezon City Librarian's Association Inc. invites librarians and other professionals handling records to a lecture-forum on "Document Imaging and Management" on Sept. 12, 8 a.m.-3 p.m., at the Trinity College Auditorium, Cathedral Heights, QC. Call 921-7316, 927-9834 or 922-4060.

PRODUCT DISCOUNT. Special incentives await party hostesses while party guests are offered great product discounts in different dealerships and distributorships throughout the country on Tupperware's Global Party Day tomorrow.

BAZAAR. The Assumption College High School Class '77 and the Family Council will again stage the Assumption Bazaar on Sept. 22 at the Grand Ballroom of Hotel Intercontinental Manila. The pre-Christmas fair showcases trendy and reasonably priced products from among the country's leading brands. Call 894-3580 and 894-3561 or e-mail assumpta@pacific.net.ph.

SEMINAR. A.T. Valino Public Relations Firm is organizing a seminar on "How To Win and Invest in the Philippine Stock Market" on Sept. 28 at the Mondragon House, Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City. Lecturer is Irving Ackerman, president of I. Ackerman Inc., who will expound on the basic tenets of stock market investments. He will also give tips on which stocks are doing well and those that show potential in the market. Call (0917) 785-9060 or (0916) 827-9111.

CONFERENCE. The Philippine Librarians Association Inc. will hold a three-day conference "Transformative Leadership: A Formula for professionalism and Excellence in Librarianship" Sept 18-20 at the Dynasty Court Hotel, Tiano Bros. corner A. Hayes Street, Cagayan de Oro City. Call 526-8295 local 2558, 527-9071 local 44, 524-9740, or fax 525-0432.

Experience the joy of reading at Philippine Bookfair

EMBARK on a trip across various cultures and eras at the Philippine Bookfair 2002. Books, audio-visual finds and electronic technologies are featured until Sept. 8 at the Megatrade Hall of SM Megamall B, Mandaluyong City. Check out the hottest and latest releases from reputable publishers and distributors in 200 booths across 4,000 sq m of exhibition space.

The Philippine Bookfair not only serves as a veritable launching ground for new and promising authors, but is also a treasure trove of the finest and most inspiring works by established and award-winning authors. This is where the country's leading publishers, booksellers, librarians, academics, writers, printers, manufacturers, distributors, customers and special guests can interact with each other and learn relevant product technologies and trends.

With the theme "Building Strengths through Learning," the Philippine Bookfair aims to promote a healthy consciousness of books and instill good reading habits and values among readers, especially among today's youth. Every year, it also strives to contribute to the development or sharpening of skills and abilities not only through quality reading materials, but also through seminars and special activities lined up for the duration of the event.

Call 896-0661 and 896-0682, telefax 896-0695, or e-mail ptrade@philonline.com.

AT THE GOODWILL Bookstore, guest of honor, former Education Secretary Raul Roco (second from left) checks out the books with Dr. Dennis Gonzales, chairman of the National Book Development Board (left); Lirio Sandoval, president of Board Development Association of the Philippines (third from left) and Rep. Rolex Suplico (right).

Legion of Mary celebrates 81st anniversary

THE LEGION of Mary celebrates the 81st anniversary of its foundation on Sept. 7.

According to Bro. Edgardo Margarejo, LOM Senatus vice president in the Philippines, the cause for the beatification of Bro. Frank Duff, founder of the group, has been submitted to the Vatican.

Parishes that wish to put up an LOM presidium may call Brother Edgar at 926-2372, or fax request at tel. 926-2758. Those who wish to have prayers for the beatification of Bro. Frank Duff can write to the LOM at 53 Dangay St., Project 7, QC.

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Environmental organizations that need volunteers

SEEING GREEN

Doris Gaskell Nuyda

THERE are people out there who want to work as vol unteers either as a way of passing time meaningfully, or to be part of a project or advocacy that they believe in. One reader even requested to be provided with a list of organizations that need volunteers. Here are some, all of them environmental:

- Marian Environmental Institute for the Greening of Katipunan, to help in the Greening of Katipunan project. Call Donna Reyes/Tessa Oliva, Miriam College, Katipunan Avenue, QC, tel. 920-5093, or Annie S. Cruz at 434-8239.
- River Watch Volunteers, for advocacy toward the creation of the Clean Water Act. Call Gay Madela, Clean & Green HQ, Intramuros, tel. 528-0504.
- My Zoo Volunteers, which has just started a program for college students and young professionals interested in doing environmental work as community service at the Manila Zoo, Adriatico Street, Manila. The group meets regularly every Saturday, and other days as needed. Call Kitty Arce, president and co-founder, at 364-2369, or e-mail myzoo@rescueteam.com.
- Center for Environmental Awareness and Education is in need of volunteers to do research work on certain water concepts and help conduct water workshops. Training is provided in some cases. Call Jukka Holopainen, founder and executive director, Unit 141 500 P. Burgos, Virra Condominium, Makati, at tel. 899-5660.

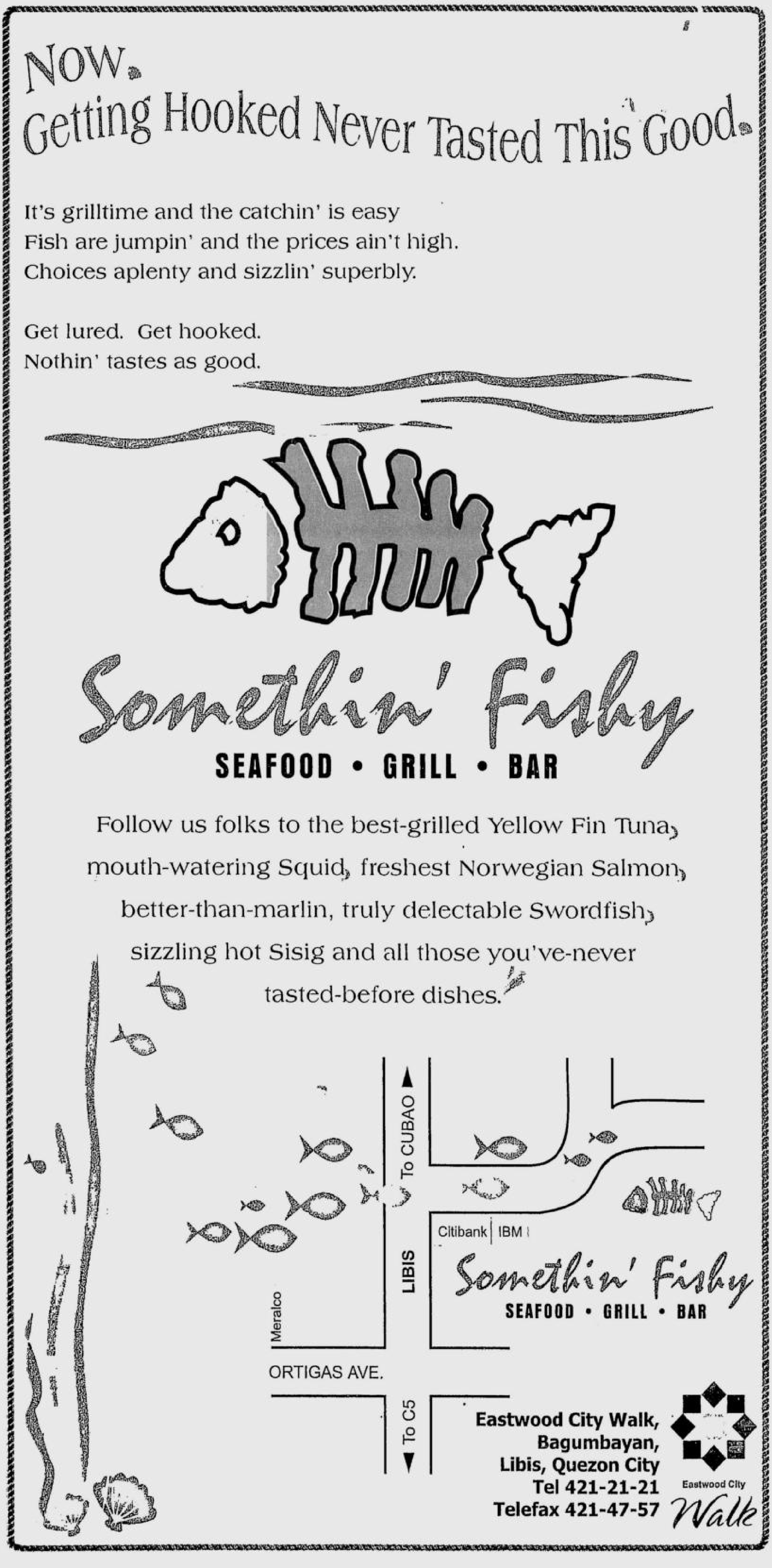
We'll add to this list as information reaches us.

Trees at Villamor-South Superhighway

KHL writes that the trees lining the street from the Villamor entrance of the South Expressway to the new (and controversial) international airport under construction have been cut, probably to "improve" the road.

"Early in the second week of July when we passed there," KHL recounts, "only half the trees were cut. We thought they had just been balled for replanting somewhere else, but later that week, when I passed that street again, I saw that the trees had been sawed off close to the ground. I intended to report this to the authorities but I got sick. When I last entered Villamor, even the tree trunks were gone. Perhaps other motorists had complained about it. Isn't it prohibited to cut down trees?"

To KHL: Yes, it is prohibited. But if it is absolutely necessary to do so, one must have a permit—in accordance with DENR administrative orders—from the LGU (local government unit) or from the barangay or neighborhood association that has jurisdiction over such matters in the area. I also consulted Tess Aquino, director of the Forest Management Bureau, who said that in case the cutting was done in the National Capital Region, inquiries could be made at the NCR Regional Office, particularly at the office of regional executive director Corazon C. Davis.



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Home and garden trade show reels off Sept. 19-21

A THREE-DAY trade show on the latest home and garden products will be held on Sept. 19-21 at the World Trade Center Manila. Dubbed "Home and Garden Asia 2002," it will feature the latest in home and garden products from Europe, the Americas and Asia.

Well-known interior artist Johnny Hubilla is designing the show, which will feature, among others, a Furniture Pavilion to be organized by the Chamber of Furniture Industries of the Philippines, and an extensive special display by members of the Philippine Bonsai Society.

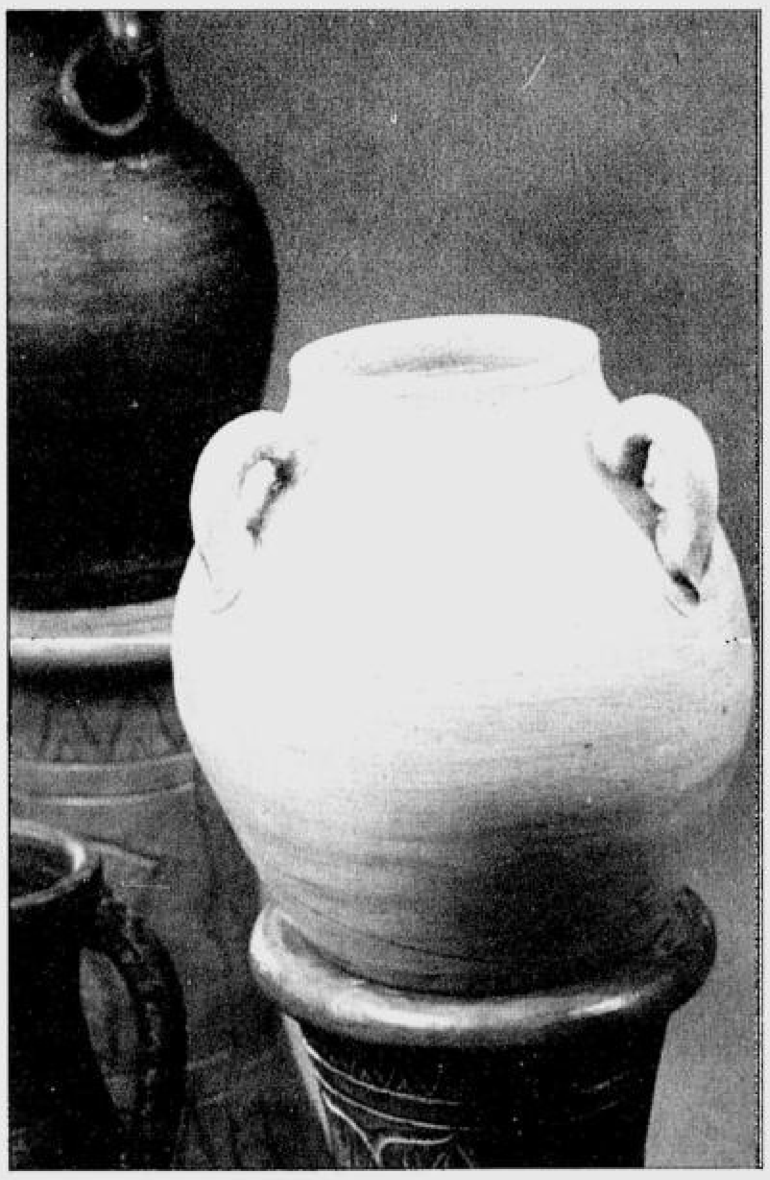
Another attraction will be the typical modern American home to be put up in the American Pavilion. This is being coordinated by the US Commercial Service of the US Embassy, one of the exhibition's official supporters.

For three days, the World Trade Center will bloom with orchids and other horticultural delights. Special exhibits are being arranged by members of the Philippine Horticultural Society and the Philippine Orchid Society, the two other supporting organizations of Home and Garden Asia 2002.

The Philippine Institute of Interior Designers will put up a pavilion in the show, where their designers will be offering interior designing consultations on the spot.

Conceptualized to satisfy the needs of consumers who have become more discriminate in their tastes and preferences for home and garden products, "Home and Garden Asia 2002" promises to bring into focus two factors: increased functionality and elegant home style.

Call 818-6828 or 810-1389.



FURNITURE AND HOUSEWARE EXPORTERS IN GREECE

An array of creatively designed gifts and artistically handcrafted houseware items will be highlighted at the 67th Thessaloniki International Fair on Sept. 7-15 in the International Exhibition Center of Thessaloniki, Greece. Participants from the Philippines include Polymart Inc., Freedom Handicrafts, Faith Export Inc., Casa Filipinas Houseware Crafts and the Chamber of Furniture Industries of the Philippines. The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources will send seafood products to the fair. The event is the largest exhibition in Southeast Europe and Eastern Mediterranean that brings together Greek and foreign companies and organizations. In photo are Terrcotta accent pieces by Freedom Handicrafts.